

Chapter 211: Formidable Battle Force

Chilian Daynight also did not recognize Liu Shaoqiu, but since he had reached this stage, Liu Shaoqiu was definitely an expert from Astral-2. He would not be a simple opponent.

Even as Liu Shaoqiu faced Chilian Daynight, his eyes swept upwards towards the peak above them. He then gripped his sword hilt and swept out with the rusty blade once before gently sheathing his sword once more. He turned and slowly walked out of the arena.

Many were dumbfounded by his actions. What was that? Was this guy an idiot? Had he just admitted defeat after randomly moving around? Although, it was not that embarrassing to admit defeat against a Daynight clan member.

But then, right as everyone was wondering what had just happened, Chilian Daynight's body split in half, and he vanished from the Lifeseek Realm.

Everyone fell silent and stared, aghast, at the scene; Chilian Daynight had just died.

At this moment, neither the spectating Astral Combat Academy students nor the countless people staring at their screens across the universe could believe what had just happened. How had Chilian Daynight died? His death had been too sudden and without warning. Had his opponent killed him?

On the highest peak, all ten student leaders had grave expressions. They could understand that sword sweep even if the others couldn't. It had transcended space and attacked without a trace, but it had still been extremely precise. It had not damaged the space in the slightest, but this slice had still easily dispatched Chilian Daynight.

Lu Yin frowned. It was a very formidable sword technique.

"This is the first sword of the Thirteen Swords," Liu Xiaoyun said with an agonized yet also envious and dissatisfied tone. The Thirteen Swords technique was the Sword Sect's most powerful inherited sword technique, but she was not qualified to receive it. It was akin to being a thirsty wanderer in a desert and then seeing an oasis in front of them. However, they were unable to take even a single step forward. This level of desperation was unimaginable to the average person. It was also the same reason why she had joined the Astral Combat Academy and stepped away from the Sword Sect; it was in anticipation of, one day, defeating Liu Shaoqiu and proving that the Thirteen Swords was not that extraordinary.

However, even after all these years, when Liu Xiaoyun saw the Thirteen Swords once more, she instantly realized that she could not let go of her desire for it. Her longing for Liu Shaoqiu's power only grew the more he displayed it. And yet, she was not qualified to bear such power.

Lu Yin's eyes flashed when he noticed that Liu Xiaoyun's right hand was tightly gripping her sword hilt. He wanted to face the Thirteen Swords technique himself, and he even wondered if he could learn it himself. Logically, it should be impossible, as the Sword Sect was no weaker than the Daynight clan. It had already been extremely difficult for him to learn just a few of the Daynight clan's standard battle techniques, let alone this peak Thirteen Swords inherited technique.

No matter how confused the audience was, the tournament still had to go on. There was no need for the arena to repair itself this time, as it had not been damaged whatsoever.

The next match was Bonny Phoenix against Qu Feng, the humble looking person who had defeated Darkvoid. No one could even understand his attacking approach.

In the first Flowzone, the Sword Sect members were not even watching the screen, as they were completely confident that Liu Shaoqiu would definitely sweep through the tournament and take first place.

In that dusky land, the beautiful girl clapped. "How powerful! Grandma, he's my fiancé! So powerful!"

She deferentially replied, "Yes, his battle technique is called Thirteen Swords. What you just saw was only the first sword."

The girl became happy. "Really? I hope that I'll be able to see all Thirteen Swords."

The old woman forced a smile onto her face. Even the person who had joined the Ten Arbiters had not comprehended all Thirteen Swords. It was unknown how many Liu Shaoqiu had comprehended so far, but it would be at least dozens of years before anyone could see the complete version of the Thirteen Swords, unless it was demonstrated by the previous generation's sect master of the Sword Sect.

The battle between Qu Feng and Bonny Phoenix again left many at a loss. Qu Feng's attack style was too strange, and he won the battle by incessantly scattering ink around the battlefield. Bonny Phoenix was still a fallen Undying Bird, but he had died even more miserably than Hart Phoenix. At least Hart had released his golden Undying Bird.

Bonny was sullen, but he simply had no way to fight back against Qu Feng.

Lu Yin was shocked. "What a strange attack. It seems to be rather similar to Han Chong's."

Not far away, Feng Shang smiled before saying, "Qu Feng and Han Chong are both from the Inniverse's Erudite Flowzone. That Flowzone has a unique heritage in that they pass down the previous generation's scholars' calligraphy methods. Thus, their attack methods are very often different from the other Flowzones."

"No wonder," Lu Yin remarked in an understanding tone.

These two consecutive matches had puzzled many, but the next revitalized their excitement once more. One of the fighters was Cang Shi from Chaosgod Mountain. He had defeated Tiankong Daynight and used the Daynight clan as a stepping stone to spread his fame throughout the universe.

His opponent was Xia Ye from Astral-5; the Dao of Heaven's Machine Domain's Area Master.

An Area Master was supposed to be second in strength only to a Realm Master, but this Astral Combat Tournament was unique in that half of the Area Masters had already been eliminated. Conversely, it was the freaks like Cang Shi who had only recently joined the Astral Combat Academy who made people feel apprehensive, as no one knew how strong these newcomers really were.

Xia Ye's performance in Astral-5 had not been too eye-catching, and he was just an average Area Master. Otherwise, he would not have just ruled over a place like the Machine Domain. To most

students, that area didn't hold much value and was basically treated like an abandoned factory. Thus, not many audience members held high hopes for Xia Ye, as they estimated him to be no stronger than Tiankong Daynight.

However, Lu Yin viewed him seriously. This was because Xia Ye had the same primeval surname as Xia Luo. If this person went all out, Lu Yin was certain that his display would be so terrifying that it would cause others to doubt their eyes.

Cang Shi was of the same view as Lu Yin and waited for his opponent to attack.

Xia Ye did not remain polite and charged towards Cang Shi with a fist. Many were disappointed by his attack, as it was not as strong as Tiankong Daynight's, which in their mind meant that his overall strength was definitely not comparable either.

Cang Shi remained calm and dodged several times before suddenly attacking himself. His body swayed as if he were trying to disrupt Xia Ye's attacking rhythm. Xia Ye did not do anything unexpected, and was grabbed by Cang Shi. His body was then smashed into the ground.

Many students sighed as they thought that Xia Ye had been defeated too quickly, seeing it as a pity.

But then Cang Shi jumped out of the deep pit and looked at his own fist. His expression was strange, and he seemed to be slightly lost and not as confident in himself as when he previously defeated Tiankong Daynight. He looked back into the deep pit with an odd expression.

Xia Ye's body had not vanished, as he had not died yet. He slowly stood up, rubbed his abdomen, and commented, "You're indeed worthy of being a disciple of Chaosgod Mountain. Your attack's super strong."

Cang Shi stared at Xia Ye strangely and spoke for the first time. "You... Your heartbeat's not right."

Xia Ye simply smiled strangely. "Don't worry about it. It's just a personal habit."

Cang Shi squinted and clenched his right fist. He then unexpectedly took the initiative to attack. His fist directly landed on Xia Ye's chest, right over his heart, and sent him flying. Xia Ye's back parted the air like an arrowhead, and he landed heavily against the side of the peak. He had been struck with such force that his body continued moving even after colliding against the peak, piercing straight through the mountain before finally crashing onto the ground.

Countless people watching from their screens sharply breathed in, as this attack was too vicious. If Arikar and the others' attacks had been eye-dazzling, then Cang Shi's attack was nothing more than overwhelming strength. This was not the same as Grandini's overbearing strength, but more like a sharp explosion of strength.

Everyone thought that Xia Ye was dead, but once again, he calmly stood up and walked back to the center of the plains. He rubbed his chest, causing his heart rate to suddenly speed up. At soon as Cang Shi noticed this, his expression changed as he made a blocking motion with both arms. The Xia Ye in front of him had not vanished yet, but another Xia Ye had appeared in front of him. This was a phantom image created from an extreme speed that was too fast to track with the eyes, but not fast enough to penetrate the void.

Thump!

A dull sound filled the air as the shock waves from Xia Ye's attack rippled out from the impact and tore the ground apart. Cang Shi was sent flying in a similar manner to Xia Ye and crashed into the ground. Xia Ye leapt up before his body plummeted downwards, causing the fissures in the ground to expand once again. Bang after explosive bang filled the crowds' ears while it felt like the entire arena plains was about to be flipped on its head.

Many were dumbfounded, as no one had imagined that the seemingly gentle Xia Ye would fight in such an explosive manner. His attacks looked even more terrifying than Grandini's, since at least both Lulu and Grandini's battle intent had been blatantly revealed.

Cang Shi retaliated with an angry roar as his fists collided with Xia Ye's. The resulting shock waves travelled through the arena and even instantly killed a fair number of the observing students. The peak overlooking the field was also torn apart by the air waves. Despite the destructive clash, the two figures rose from beneath the surface of the ground and into the sky. They collided again in midair, both tearing through the void.

The disciples of Chaosgod Mountain all had perverse reaction times and could effectively evade most battle techniques. For example, Tiankong Daynight's attacks had been completely ineffective against Cang Shi. However, Xia Ye did not attack straightforwardly, or rather, it would be more accurate to say that his attacks factored in Cang Shi's evasive movements. Thus, Xia Ye's attacks sealed off all avenues of escape, forcing Cang Shi to directly clash against him.

"For the Chaosgod Mountain disciple to be forced to fight with his body, this Xia Ye is very strong. Kuang Wang, your Astral-5 has hidden its talents well," Nightqueen Yanqing commented with a sneer.

Kuang Wang's face remained solemn, as he had been completely unaware of Xia Ye's strength since the two of them had never crossed paths. But it was evident from this battle that Xia Ye had a rather tough body as well as a great deal of battle experience. At the very least, Kuang Wang himself was not confident in beating a Chaosgod Mountain disciple in a physical confrontation.

There was another loud boom as Cang Shi's body turned purple. This time, the resulting shock waves swept out all directions and nearly caused the void to collapsed.

"Four lines... That's four-lined battle force!" someone cried out in astonishment.

The first powerhouse with four-lined battle force had appeared in this Astral Combat Tournament.

After Cang Shi revealed his battle force, Xia Ye's entire body was thrown underground, once again suppressed like how he had been at the start of the battle.

Cang Shi's eyes were as malevolent as ever. Chaosgod Mountain was one of the top organizations among the dark powers, and his attacks never showed any mercy. He lifted his right fist as purple battle force condensed on it before slamming his fist down. This fist filled with battle force truly did topple the arena plains, and the entirety of the violence was centered on Xia Ye's point of impact. The entire arena field was flipped over as the strength of the purple battle force passed through the ground and swept out in all directions along the deep fissures in the ground.

At this point, an unseen force descended and separated the battle ground from the observing students so that they would not be affected.

Many of them panicked, knowing they would die as soon as the four-lined battle force touched them.

The ground had a faint purple sheen to it because of the four-lined battle force that had just coursed through it.

Cang Shi did not seem satisfied and punched down with his fist again, but this time, it was caught by a hand. The two hands met, and another shock wave swept out from underground, tearing everything in its path to shreds due to the reinforcement of the battle force. Even the nearby peak overlooking the fields where the student leaders were seated started to tremble.

Xia Ye reappeared, and his body was similarly shrouded with four-lined battle force. The two battle forces clashed and caused the void to boil as hairline cracks extended outwards, centered around the two in the middle of the maelstrom of chaos. Countless people viewing this scene were dumbfounded.

Before their screens, numerous spectators were shocked by what they were seeing. Those who understood battle force knew that four-lined battle force usually only ever appeared on Explorers with extremely few Limiteers able to grasp it. Yet two such Limiteers had appeared today, and when the two's battle force collided, even the void could not withstand it. This was an absolutely terrifying scene that even a normal Explorer wouldn't be able to interfere in if they wished.

These two possessed a strength on par to an Explorers'!

Cang Shi stared at Xia Ye's looming gaze and felt that something was amiss even though he had his four-lined battle force surrounding his body. He instinctively tried to distance himself from Xia Yu.

Xia Ye slowly released a breath, and his heart rate changed once more. This time, it returned to a normal rate that Cang Shi could hear. From the very start, he had felt that this person's heart rate was abnormal. Right now, it had returned to a normal rate, but a moment later, an intense pain spread out from the fist that Xia Ye had gripped earlier.

Chapter 212: Starsibyl

"It's been a long time since I've used my full strength. Thank you for allowing me to refamiliarize myself with it before the final battle," Xia Ye simply said as he kicked out. The Chaosgod Mountain disciple quickly reacted and let out a kick of his own the moment Xia Ye finished speaking. The two were only half a meter apart, and Xia Ye's right hand was still tightly gripping Cang Shi's right fist. As they kicked out simultaneously, the void shattered with a boom. Many of the spectating students covered their ears because they could not handle the sound. At that instant, the void around the two students was distorted for a distance of a thousand meters with traces of ruptures appearing.

Xia Ye's monstrous kick had caused the battle force on Cang Shi's leg to split before it connected with Cang Shi's abdomen. At the same time, Xia Ye released the fist that he had captured previously. As a result, Cang Shi's body was sent flying and vanished in midair.

Everyone stared in amazement at the arena plains, and then at the calm Xia Ye. This battle had been the most intense one yet of this Astral Combat Tournament, not to mention the highest quality. There had

been a collision of terrifying physical force, amazing evasive movements and instincts, dazzling attacks, and of course, the shocking four-lined battle force.

No more than a hundred students in the entire Astral Combat Academy had comprehended battle force, and only Area Masters had managed to cultivate two-lined battle force, which was no more than twenty or even fifteen people. Even fewer had cultivated their battle force to the three-lined realm, and Xia Ye was the only one who had revealed four-lined battle force thus far. Even the student leaders of the ten academies had never revealed four-lined battle force before.

This was the Astral Combat Academy, the best training institution in the entire Human Domain. If one widened the scope to include the younger generation of the entire universe, then the probability of encountering someone with four-lined battle force would reduce infinitely close to zero. At this moment, Xia Ye had become the object of worship for countless people.

Atop the peak overlooking the field, Kuang Wang had a serious expression, and it could even be called a little ugly. Xia Ye's power had far exceeded his expectations, and he was no longer even confident of defeating Xia Ye. Why had this person kept such a low profile until now?

The other student leaders had a similar reaction. Cang Shi was already very powerful, and none of them would dare to claim that they would definitely prevail over his four-lined battle force, but despite that, Xia Ye had won. His battle force's intensity had even surpassed Cang Shi's; this was a person who had deeply hidden their true strength. Additionally, Xia Ye had received the Astral Combat Academy's teachings and was an elite who had walked to this step with his own merits.

"There's a legend that one of the Ten Arbiters broke through and reached the realm of five-lined battle force while in the Astral Combat Academy, allowing him to crush Explorers with pure power as a Limiteer. Xia Ye's not too far off from that point," Dao Bo marvelled.

Astral-1's leader smiled. "The distance of a single step can be like a vast abyss. In its countless years, the Astral Combat Academy has produced many freaks and geniuses. Although only a few Limiteers have ever achieved four-lined battle force, they still exist in the academy's history. The accomplishment of reaching five-lined battle force as a Limiteer, however, belongs solely to the Ten Arbiters. No one from the younger generation can surpass them who symbolize this era."

"They were also the start of an era," Lu Yin suddenly interjected. He saw Astral-1's leader, Dao Bo, and a few others look at him strangely, but he merely smiled and said no more.

Nightqueen Yanqing snorted. "Don't make any rash presumptions about the Ten Arbiters."

A number then appeared before her. It was her turn.

Nightqueen Yanqing got up and tapped the number to appear in the arena plains.

Many students silently watched Nightqueen Yanqing from within the Lifeseek Realm while countless more watched on their screens. This was a Nightqueen of the Daynight clan.

Nightqueen Yanqing's opponent instantly admitted defeat. Her opponent was an Area Master who knew that he would be powerless against Nightqueen Yanqing. He did not even dare to show his face.

Next was Xue Liuyun, although this Astral-4's leader also had no opponent, as the person had also immediately admitted defeat.

Another two new faces appeared in the following match. They could not be considered complete unknowns, however, as one of them had been Astral-5's representative during the Knocking on the Dragon's Door stage. His name was Tu Bo, and his opponent was a pretty girl.

When the girl's name was transmitted, Lu Yin was stumped. Angie? Where have I heard that name before?

After digging through his memories, Lu Yin finally remembered where he had heard the name before. Ah Mu had mentioned that she was the Umbral Butterfly Tribe's young mistress and also a student of the Astral Combat Academy. It turned out that this was her.

The Umbral Butterfly Tribe could absorb the strength of nearby plants to limitlessly strengthen themselves, but this was also their weakness. Lu Yin looked around at the battlefield. Although this was not a swamp filled with poisonous plants and there were quite a few ordinary plants lying about, these plants would not be able to provide much strength and could only give Angie a small boost. He was rather curious to see how much Angie would be strengthened by the present flora.

Unfortunately, Lu Yin was disappointed as the battle ended too quickly. Angie's power was decent and approached the level of an Area Master, but the battle ended instantly since she had been matched up against Tu Bo.

Lu Yin shook his head as the Outerverse's Umbral Butterfly Tribe's young mistress was just too weak. It could only be said that the Astral Combat Academy held too many talented students that had been gathered from all over the universe. It resulted in a situation that was unfathomable to the average person, where the disparity between geniuses could be seen from someone like Schutz. He was the top expert of the Great Yu Empire's younger generation, but he could not even get past the first round of this tournament.

Soon after, another person appeared on the arena plains. It was Silver, and his appearance immediately attracted a great deal of attention as his performance during the Three Academies Guarding the Gate stage had been too dazzling. His killing domain was just too disturbing.

His appearance even drew the attention of Dao Bo and some of the other leaders. He had reached this stage even though he was only a Melder. This made his feat even more impressive.

Silver's opponent was from Astral-9. He was not an unknown student, and was someone else who had participated in the Sounding the Battle Drums stage. His name was Zong. He had a pale face, and his body emitted a deathly aura, giving him the appearance of a walking corpse.

One side smiled horrifyingly while the other gave people the chills just by standing there. Many thought that the two were rather similar.

In the Great Yu Empire, Undying Yushan looked at his screen seriously. Ever since Silver had joined the Astral Combat Academy, the Great Yu Empire had ceaselessly been trying to investigate his origins, but they hadn't made any progress. His background was too ordinary, to the extent that it was actually extraordinary. This person was definitely not simple.

No trash talk was exchanged on the plains as the two figures simultaneously attacked.

A moment later, the spectating crowd was amazed. Their fighting styles were also very similar; Silver had a silent murderous cold aura while Zong emitted an eerie killing intent. It was like they were watching two specters shuttling and flitting about on the plains.

Xia Ye and Cang Shi's battle had been earth-shattering, but Silver and Zong's battle was like watching ghostly demons tangling with each other. Many spectators quickly grew bored as they could only see two shadows criss-crossing nonstop and could not see any flashy special techniques.

But a small portion of the audience had serious faces and were even shocked by the battle. Silver had already activated his domain, but he still could not get a hold of Zong simply because Zong was enveloped in a layer of grey flowing air—three-lined battle force.

Everyone's understanding and use of power was different. Xia Ye and Cang Shi's use of power focused around destruction while Zong's was defense. What's more, he was even using a flowing layer of incomprehensible grey air to cover it, so as to conceal it from others. On the other hand, Silver's domain was like flowing mercury. It moved everywhere even as it remained imperceptible, with its only distinguishing mark being the flashes of the butterfly knife.

The butterfly knife playfully danced about, as if it were truly a butterfly flying around a flower. It carried a beautiful silver brilliance as it blossomed in the arena plains. Every one of Silver's stabs was aimed straight at Zong's vital points. Additionally, the smile on his face never vanished despite Zong revealing his three-lined battle force. It was as if everything was going as planned.

Atop the high peak, Liu Yin suddenly spoke. "He's almost at his limits."

"Who?" Feng Shang asked.

Liu Yin replied, "The man with battle force."

"How do you know?"

Liu Yin pointed to his ears. "I heard it."

Dao Bo interrupted, "Zong should be another frozen genius, but he was sealed away for too long. It's caused his body to be unaccustomed to his battle force, so he's almost reached his limit."

Sure enough, before long, multiple traces of blood appeared on Zong's body. Silver's smile grew broader as he flashed past him one final time, splendidly killing Zong.

The appearance of three-lined battle force should have been shocking, but it had been hidden by Zong, who was then defeated. This meant that, to the general audience, Silver's victory was not that impressive. Only those who had seen through the concealed battle force would know the true terror of Silver and his butterfly knife that had sliced through the three-lined battle force. Silver was no less of a threat than Xia Ye.

The battle made Lu Yin feel helpless, and he unconsciously rubbed his temple. He did not know whether these people had been just concealing their power, or if they had truly made such vast improvements

over the past few months. Each one had become terrifyingly powerful, and neither Xia Luo nor Silver seemed to have any limits in terms of their progress.

Lu Yin's own advancements had also been abnormal, as only a rare few could match up to an Area Master after joining the Astral Combat Academy for just a year. But these two had also surpassed an Area Master. He really did not know how these two had managed to accomplish such a feat.

The next few battles were rather dull, as Dao Bo and Kuang Wang were also paired up against Area Masters, and like before, these Area Masters would automatically withdraw since they were not students who had only recently joined the Astral Combat Academy. Thirty one matches had concluded, leaving only one remaining. Calcifer appeared in the arena plains, and his opponent was a rather ordinary-looking young girl from Astral-9.

Calcifer's origin had been explained by Astral-1's leader, or else no one would have known it. He had instantly eliminated Uro and attracted a great deal of attention, but only the select group sitting on the peak overlooking the field knew his origin through Astral-1's leader. He was a powerhouse who had been sealed in ice for a hundred years and even tried to assassinate Starsibyl in the past at one point.

"Starsibyl" was just a title, and no one knew her original name. What was known was that she represented the future, divination, and the hopes of countless people. Her sect was also called the Super Sect, as this was the impression that the outer world had towards Starsibyl. However, no one knew anything more besides that.

Over the countless years, Starsibyl had become a name that was passed on as a belief. Lu Yin had heard of her predictions, such as when Starsibyl had prophesied huge changes in the universe dozens of years ago. For this reason, great powers of the universe had frozen their geniuses, sealing them in ice in anticipation of the day the portended great changes came. At that time, they would be unsealed so that they could fight for their destiny. This clearly showed how far Starsibyl's influence went.

Calcifer was definitely insane to dare to assassinate Starsibyl. Regardless of his success or failure, no one would let him off, and he would not be able to hide anywhere in the entire universe.

And yet, this person had now overtly appeared in the Astral Combat Tournament and even joined Astral-1, making his actions even more incomprehensible.

Lu Yin had heard news of Starsibyl more than once. The first time was from Jeraldine, the student from the Great Yu Empire's First Military School. Even a remote region like the Great Yu Empire had heard of Starsibyl, which showed how wide the scope of her influence was.

Calcifer was a powerhouse who had instantly killed Uro, so no one believed that this girl would be able to stand up against him. That is, except for Calcifer.

He stared at the girl, puzzled, as he felt a great sense of danger overcome him as he approached her. It was as if there was a giant blade hanging over his neck that could fall down anytime he even thought about taking another step forward, and the precarious feeling caused his heart to palpitate wildly. This was a killer's intuition, and he had experienced this more than once before. He had withdrawn every single time he had experienced this feeling before, with the exception of Starsibyl. But now, this feeling had appeared when he was facing this girl.

He instinctively wanted to retreat, but this was a competition, and retreat meant defeat.

The two stared at each other strangely in the battlefield. Calcifer did not move, and the girl also remained motionless, but the two had completely different demeanors. Calcifer stared intently at the girl while the girl's gaze moved about, as if she had not a single care in the world.

Chapter 213: The Wind Of Seasons

At this moment, the ten academy leaders had also sensed that something was off. The leader of Astral-1's eyes twinkled as she knew that most of the people here were greatly mistaken; that woman was very powerful.

Xue Liuyun knitted her brows.

Liu Yin had a puzzled look in his eyes. Since when did Astral-9 have such a strong powerhouse? That perilous sense of danger was something that he could sense even from this distance.

Lu Yin squinted his eyes. This woman is not as simple as she seemed.

As an assassin, Calcifer had plenty of patience, but something about this woman was different. After some time passed without either of them making a move, the girl finally looked over and slowly raised her arms. With a just casual wave of her arms, a strong gray gale rose out of nowhere and engulfed the entire arena plains.

Goosebumps appeared on Calcifer's skin, and he instinctively knew that an extreme calamity was headed his way. Without any hesitation, he appeared behind the woman with the intention of ending the battle as quickly as possible.

The woman was still standing at her original spot, not having moved an inch. Calcifer's dagger stabbed towards her, fortified with his innate gift and star energy. But when it was just a centimeter away from the woman's neck, Calcifer's clothes started to decay. The rot quickly spread to his hair and skin, until finally, his entire body decayed and turned into dust that fell to the ground with a soft sigh.

Everyone fell silent. This was the umpteenth time that they had been shocked by something they saw in the tournament. And yet, this time, their shock also came with a new sense of fear; what the hell had just happened? Did they actually just see an individual who had been alive and kicking just moments ago, be reduced to a pile of ashes in a matter of seconds?

Feng Shang suddenly stood up and looked at the woman in disbelief. "Wind of Seasons! What we just witnessed was the Wind of Seasons."

"The Wind of Seasons?" Kuang Wang asked in a confused tone.

Feng Shang gravely responded, "It is a battle technique that has been lost to the annals of time. It uses the elements of the four seasons to cause everything around it to decay into nothingness. This battle technique should have been lost, so how did she learn it?"

Lu Yin was stunned. The Wind of Seasons and decay... Surely, this did not involve the aspect of time, did it!?

“This time, the Astral Combat Tournament really has attracted a whole bunch of monsters. Calcifer himself was already quite powerful, powerful enough to kill an Area Master, but even he was rendered powerless against this monster,” Dao Bo exclaimed.

Lu Yin took a look at Dao Bo. It was true that these few individuals were absolute monsters in the eyes of others. However, attempting to kill Starsibyl did not represent how powerful someone was; it only proved that they were vicious. From Lu Yin’s point of view, the sense of danger that Calcifer gave off was not as strong as Liu Shaoqiu’s. And yet, this woman gave off a completely different scent of danger; she posed a hidden threat.

The fourth round of battles that had been chosen by drawing lots had now finished with this shocking performance by this woman named Chao Zhi. The fifth round would also be chosen by drawing lots, and it was scheduled to take place twelve hours later.

Lu Yin immediately left the Lifeseek Realm and reappeared on the trial zone mountain.

Many other people left the Lifeseek Realm as well. With such a lengthy competition, it was tiring even as a spectator. However, everything was worth it as they had been able to see many powerful competitors and many more battle techniques; even four-lined battle force had made an appearance.

In front of their screens, many people heaved sighs of relief. The exciting displays shown during these battles had kept these viewers restlessly glued to their screens. At this moment, many were starting to feel tired and took this opportunity to rest.

On Astral-10’s trial zone mountain, Lu Yin opened his eyes. The first thing that entered his eyes was Michelle’s visage, who was not too far away from him. She had also woken up. Michelle’s eyes quickly met Lu Yin’s, and apart from a slight look of surprise on Michelle’s face, she held no other expression.

Coco opened her eyes as well, and she happily rushed to Lu Yin when she saw him. “Big brother Lu, we all thought you were dead! Is there any truth to what they say happened in the pirate port?”

Lu Yin laughed. “Of course not! If I was really hit by a weapon like that, then nobody could have saved me.”

Coco stuck out her tongue. “I was also skeptical of the news. The mentor said that the power of those light beams is enough to kill powerful people at the Explorer level. You wouldn’t stand a chance as a Melder.” After saying that, Coco suddenly started to study Lu Yin’s body more closely. Then, with a face full of longing, she asked, “Big brother Lu, are you hurt?”

“Nope, not a scratch,” Lu Yin replied simply and firmly, disappointing Coco.

Big Pao and Little Pao arrived as well, and they both cast strange looks at Lu Yin. “Junior, did you feel a lot of pressure from sitting up there with those Realm Masters?”

Lu Yin shrugged noncommittally. “Not really, they’re pretty easy to get along with.”

Big Pao laughed oddly. “Really? You can tell us if you felt pressured. We are all brothers here; there’s nothing to hide.

Lu Yin laughed.

Xia Luo appeared as well, and his appearance was immediately met by Coco's admiration. His easy victory over Jared had astonished everyone.

Although Lu Yin had easily crushed Long Yi, Jared's strength was well above the sylvan dragon's. Having said that, Lu Yin's crushing of Long Yi had also slightly moved Big Pao, causing him to see Lu Yin as someone dear to his heart.

"Senior Little Pao, how did you feel after you were defeated so easily by that no good little punk from Astral-9?" Zora asked Little Pao as she suddenly appeared.

Little Pao pasted an obviously fake smile on his face. "What pleasant weather we have today."

"Senior Little Pao, please don't change the subject!" Coco cried out.

"Yes, Senior Little Pao, don't change the subject," Silver added on as he appeared with his usual large, sly smile.

His sudden appearance caused Coco to hop behind Zora. Even Schutz, who had just arrived, was put on edge. This man was terrifying and he gave off the vibe of a bloody butcher of men.

"Now that everyone is present... Lu Yin, Xia Luo, and Fox face, let me remind you all once. If you come across that bitch Grandini, do not go soft on her! Use your full force to attack her. Don't give her any room to catch her breath," Lulu yelled once she appeared.

Lu Yin curiously asked, "Do you have some sort of grudge against her?"

Lulu was miffed. "That woman dared to mock me! She said that I was small."

Everyone reflexively shifted their eyes down to Lulu's chest.

Lulu's face turned red as she bared her teeth and clenched her fists tightly, creating cracking sounds. Everyone sensed the atmosphere quickly turning awkward.

...

Not far away, Hui Daynight looked at the group disdainfully and thought to himself, What a gathering of low class life forms. The powerful figures of the Daynight clan were used to traveling alone.

Zhao Yilong, Meng Yue, and Darkvoid also woke up, not far from where the other students had gathered on the trial zone mountain. They were all going to rest until the fifth elimination round began in twelve hours.

At the peak of the realm mountain, Liu Xiaoyun watched the scene down below her. Once Lu Yin appeared, everyone had rushed to gather around him. It was a natural charisma and not his strength that had attracted everyone; this man had a certain magnetism to him.

"Oh yeah, who has a spare personal gadget on them? I need to borrow one," Lu Yin said.

Lulu readily threw him one. "Here, take it."

"Oh wow, a limited edition one! This is made from a metal that can survive a powerful Explorer's attack! It must have cost a fortune," Coco cried out in alarm.

Everyone grew envious when they saw Lu Yin holding his new personal gadget.

Lulu raised her chin proudly; she was a Mavis and did not lack for money.

Lu Yin did not stand on ceremony and immediately equipped the gadget. As for whether or not he needed to pay for it, that was a matter that they could discuss later!

After logging in to view his messages, Lu Yin saw that many people had tried to contact him. Among them were Undying Yushan, Gerbach, Coco, and the others. There were also some unknown numbers that Lu Yin guessed came from his home. There were more than a hundred of these unknown numbers in total, and it seemed like his family must be very concerned about him. However, there was no need to contact them now; the whole universe could see him.

Eh? There's actually another person who tried to reach me? It's Mira, the Red Lotus Witchbow.

When Lu Yin saw that Mira had been trying to contact him, he subconsciously glanced at Michelle. Between these two beauties, Mira was more alluring and Michelle colder.

Mira had once told Lu Yin that, if he produced some results at the Astral Combat Academy, she would give him a recommendation for the Outerverse Youth Council. Lu Yin considered his options; it would be difficult to choose between the Outerverse Youth Council and the Council of Astral Academy.

A short while later, everyone dispersed to get some rest.

Lu Yin did not bother thinking about extraneous matters. His current priority was the Astral Combat Tournament; everything else could wait.

At the same time, atop the peak of Astral-3's trial zone mountain, Nightqueen Yanqing had a solemn expression that contained a trace of fear as she looked at the screen before her. An imposing man was looking back at her. "Remember, you cannot be defeated in the Astral Combat Tournament. No matter who the opponent, the Nightking clan must prevail."

Apprehension flashed through Nightqueen Yanqing's eyes when she looked at the screen, but she responded simply. "Understood."

Within the display, not far behind the imposing man, there was another figure respectfully bowing slightly. Nightqueen Yanqing did not recognize him, but if Lu Yin were present, he would have seen the man in an instant and become furious—Liu Shaoge. He should have been following Nightking Qingyu, but he had appeared behind this man on this day.

On Astral-6's trial zone mountain, Charon awoke, and less than a kilometer away, Frankfurt regained consciousness as well.

Originally, since both of them were Area Masters, their positions had been equal. However, Frankfurt now subconsciously avoided Charon's gaze. This Astral Combat Tournament had revealed their true strength to the public. Frankfurt could only be considered to be an average Area Master while Charon was definitely a top-tier one who could rival a Realm Master.

The twelve hours passed quickly, and soon, everyone reappeared within the Lifeseek Realm.

The very first match of the fifth round featured a Realm Master.

Nightqueen Yanqing against Qu Feng.

Qu Feng had been very crafty in his few previous battles. Darkvoid and Bonny Phoenix were not weak by any means, but neither of them had been able to display their full powers against Qu Feng. His attack movements were characteristic of a Erudite Flowzone denizen, and he conducted himself modestly. He certainly lived up to being a person of culture.

A scholar would pay attention to righteousness, but the Daynight clan's style consisted of darkness. Qu Feng's face grew heavy when he saw that he was facing Nightqueen Yanqing.

"Use it, your domain," Nightqueen Yanqing said arrogantly as soon as she appeared into the arena.

Qu Feng had a solemn expression, and his star energy formed a brush. A strange fluctuation swept across the field as the black, ink-like star energy swept out.

The crowd stared at this scene even though they had become familiar with its power. Darkvoid and even Bonny had been defeated with this attack, neither of them able to use their innate gifts.

Nightqueen Yanqing's eyes remained condescending. "Your domain is strong, but do you really think that you can seal my Nightking clan? The people of the Erudite Flowzone are really too naive." She then directly charged towards Qu Feng, sweeping out with a leg. Even while the leg was flying through the air, purple veins appeared as an incomparably tough four-lined battle force covered heaven and earth before exploding and crushing everything, including Qu Feng. The entire arena exploded.

Many were stunned by what they saw, as another four-lined battle force wielder had appeared; this time, they were from the Nightking clan.

Nightqueen Yanqing's power shocked many. This was a Nightking powerhouse, one whose strength was enough to instantly take out an expert who had reached the fifth round.

Atop the high peak overlooking the field, Han Chong shook his head. Qu Feng's domain was too one-sided; it strove to limitlessly increase his battle technique while also trying to seal everything. It could be instantly wiped out when he was faced against a stronger opponent.

Nightqueen Yanqing calmly returned to the high peak. At that moment, it felt as if she had finally revealed a sliver of the Nightking clan's true terror. Those of the Daynight clan possessed more than just supreme battle techniques.

The next battle was Feng Shang's, and it was another easy victory for him. Tu Bo was next, and he also won effortlessly. His water flowed gently yet it was unstoppable.

The fourth battle attracted all eyes, as Astral-1's student leader was next in line, and her opponent was Liu Tang.

Liu Tang was one of the more outstanding disciples from the Sword Sect. and his power had shocked many. However, Astral-1's student leader was even more mysterious, as no one even knew her name.

Chapter 214: Thirteen Swords

Lu Yin's curiosity was piqued by this matchup as he looked at the battlefield. He turned to Feng Shang and asked, "What's Astral-1's leader's name?"

Feng Shang's lips bent upwards into a weird smile as he replied, "Starsibyl."

Lu Yin's pupils shrank to pinpoints. "Say what?"

Feng Shang's strange smile deepened as he repeated, "She's Starsibyl."

"That's impossible." Lu Yin immediately rejected Feng Shang's answer even though he had no proof to the contrary. Starsibyl was definitely a space-exploring powerhouse no weaker than one of the Ten Arbiters. How could she possibly just be a Limiteer?

Feng Shang smiled as he replied, "I knew that you would be shocked. Let me explain. Sometimes, the title 'Starsibyl' does not refer to just a single person. Of course, any given generation will only ever have one Starsibyl. However, before the final selection is made, there can be a few Starsibyls, and she's one of them."

Lu Yin was stunned by Feng Shang's words. Did this mean that the final Starsibyl had not been selected yet? So, it turns out that the Starsibyl who Jeraldine had seen in the Great Yu Empire was just one of several and might not have even been a space-exploring powerhouse.

While the two were speaking, Starsibyl and Liu Tang's battle had begun.

Liu Tang was the first to attack, and he started by forming a sword of star energy and activating a powerful sword technique of the Sword Sect. Endless sword qi swept out and covered the entire arena plains. Many of the onlookers retreated even though there was a wind barrier covering the arena plains; after all, it still felt like they would be sliced to bits at any time.

Each strand of sword qi tore through the void as the scope of the attack continuously expanded until it finally enveloped Astral-1's leader, Starsibyl. However, the attack never touched Starsibyl. Instead, Liu Tang suddenly turned around and stabbed out with his sword. In front of his sword, the void rippled, revealing a pure, white finger stretching out towards him. The finger and sword clashed with a loud bang, hurting the crowd's eardrums. An instant later, the ground rapidly dried up. The endless sword qi had permeated the ground below, forcing Starsibyl to step out from the void. Finally, at this time, the figure of Starsibyl standing in the distance gradually dissipated.

Many were dazed by what they saw. When did Starsibyl merge into the void?

On the high peak overlooking the field, Lu Yin reached out, touched the sword qi, and felt a light sensation of pain shoot up his fingertips. He frowned; this domain had been combined with a sword technique that gave off a sense of desolation, which was a concept of autumn.

Liu Xiaoyun was also amazed; she had underestimated this junior from her own Sword Sect. His power was not much weaker than her own.

"I would like to know the name of your sword technique," Starsibyl suddenly said while easily dodging the sword qi.

Liu Tang imposingly stared down at her as he answered, "Tang's Sword of Autumn."

Starsibyl marvelled, “A very strong sword technique, domain, and battle technique. It has even incorporated your personal emotions to display the technique wonderfully. Your power rivals that of previous Realm Masters, but it’s a pity that this generation is somewhat different.” She then tapped out with a finger.

Liu Tang’s eyes remained unchanged as he firmly thrust his sword out in response. But right after he did so, his body gradually vanished into the air. He had not even sensed when he had been severely injured or even died.

The crowd watched on blankly, not comprehending what their eyes had just seen.

Lu Yin was shocked, as he also could not understand it. Starsibyl’s attack was beyond his understanding, not because the power level was too strong, but rather because it belonged to another battle style altogether. It was something very mysterious and amazing.

The other student leaders were already accustomed to such scenes; this was Starsibyl.

Soon after Liu Tang disappeared, Starsibyl returned to her seat on the high peak. Lu Yin gave her a serious glance while Starsibyl smiled back at him.

While the crowd was still immersed in shock over Starsibyl’s mysterious display, three consecutive battles passed, with Grandini Mavis, Xia Luo, and Dao Bo achieving victories. This fifth round of battles was about to have its eighth match when a person appeared in the arena—Liu Shaoqiu.

At the same time, on the high peak, a number appeared before Kuang Wang.

Everyone felt a shiver of excitement as a Realm Master had finally been pitted against the Sword Sect’s monster. Liu Xiaoyun’s grip on her sword hilt unconsciously tightened again, and the rest of the student leaders also looked at Kuang Wang.

Kuang Wang had a relaxed appearance as he smiled and licked his lips. “How nice, I’ll be able to get a taste of the purported strongest of the Sword Sect.” He then tapped the number before him and appeared in the arena plains as well.

In the Innerverse, many fell silent as the true test of Liu Shaoqiu’s strength was about to begin. Could the godlike Thirteen Swords beat even an Astral Combat Academy’s Realm Master? This was the deciding moment.

In the dusky land, the old maid woke the small girl up. “Little princess, Young Master Liu’s battle is about to start.”

The girl rubbed her bleary eyes as she looked at the screen.

In the arena plains, Kuang Wang’s expression was grave. He had no intention of underestimating Liu Shaoqiu; this person gave him a great sense of danger. Liu Xiaoyun had been forced to join the Astral Combat Academy because of this person, which went to show how terrifying his strength was. Kuang Wang immediately released his Azure Dragon as soon as the battle started.

The Azure Dragon was not some foreign entity that had been sealed within Kuang Wang’s body. Instead, it was more like an exotic battle technique, which meant that Kuang Wang could use the beast within the Lifeseek Realm.

With a deafening roar, the Azure Dragon froze the void and cast a shadow over Liu Shaoqiu. The beast struck out with its sharp claws, causing the air to condense into a wind blade that sliced through the void and towards Liu Shaoqiu.

Liu Shaoqiu's eyes remained calm as his star energy formed the familiar rusty iron sword. He slashed out with it, easily shattering the wind blade. This was just a normal sword slash, but the Azure Dragon had felt an unusual strength behind it.

The Azure Dragon pressed down with its sharp claws and tried to use its body to directly oppress the swordsman.

At the same time, three-lined battle force appeared around Kuang Wang's body. When he had faced the combined forces of Big Pao and Little Pao, it was precisely this three-lined battle force that had easily repelled Little Pao. Most of the powerhouses from the Beast Tamers Flowzone focused on improving their tamed beasts, leaving themselves without much combat ability. Kuang Wang, however, was terrifying in his own right with his three-lined battle force.

Liu Shaoqiu rose into the air and easily avoided the Azure Dragon's attack. The iron sword that he had simulated with star energy circled around his body once. He then grabbed the sword with his right hand and stabbed out towards the Azure Dragon, his body perfectly aligned with the blade in a straight line. The Azure Dragon's movements froze and Kuang Wang spat out blood at the same time. His face paled, and he stared in disbelief at the sky, where Liu Shaoqiu slowly appeared. Liu Shaoqiu still seemed as indifferent and calm as ever while the Azure Dragon shockingly collapsed behind him.

One sword strike had destroyed the Azure Dragon, astounding everyone.

Kuang Wang was Astral-5's leader and the Dao of Heaven's Realm Master. When Big Pao and Little Pao had joined forces to fight him, they hadn't even been able to retaliate against just the Azure Dragon. The dragon had the strength and defense of an Explorer realm cultivator, but it had just been routed by this Melder, Liu Shaoqiu. It wasn't just Kuang Wang; the other student leaders and even the academy mentors were in disbelief at this development.

Liu Xiaoyun gripped her sword hilt even more tightly as she stared at Liu Shaoqiu. This was the first sword of the Thirteen Swords, the same move that had instantly killed Chilian Daynight. It was only the first sword, but it was already completely unfathomable to her.

Even Astral-1's leader, Starsibyl, had a solemn expression. The overwhelming power of the Sword Sect was universally recognized, and Liu Shaoqiu was the most outstanding disciple of this generation. His current performance was befitting of his status.

Lu Yin slowly released a breath; this person would be rather troublesome to fight against.

Outside the arena, Big Pao and Little Pao were rendered speechless. This was the same dragon that had suppressed them with a single swipe of its tail and forced them to gasp for breath. This was an astral beast that would only yield to those monsters from the Divine Grade Hall in the Beast Tamers Flowzone, but Liu Shaoqiu had exterminated it so easily.

Those watching from the screens could not even imagine what they had just witnessed. That was a dragon that Liu Shaoqiu had just slain, and even fools knew of a dragon's terror.

Liu Shaoqiu peacefully stared at Kuang Wang, slightly disappointed. "If this is the extent of an academy leader's power level, then you aren't fit to hold that seat."

Blood dripped down Kuang Wang's lips, and strangely, he laughed maniacally. "I never thought that I, Kuang Wang, would one day be challenged by a Realmbreaker Melder! I'm not afraid of anyone in the same realm as me, even in the entire universe, but a Melder is actually looking down upon me, hahaha!" Beneath him, a dark-green grass field appeared within the sundered earth, gradually flourishing and spreading. One, two, three... ten meters. With each sway of the green grass, it expanded until it gradually formed a butterfly-like pattern. As it unfurled, a green light spread out in all directions, enveloping the entire arena and even intruding on the high peak above.

Everyone felt that something was not right. There was a strange, slightly monstrous, and yet also slightly awkward feeling that filled the air with a hint of danger.

The wind barrier surrounding the arena prevented any shock waves from reaching and harming the observing students, but it could not block these green lights, which were reminiscent of daytime fireflies drifting through the air. It was beautiful.

"Butterfly topgrass! That's butterfly topgrass! Don't touch those lights!" someone anxiously cried out. It was a person from the Beast Tamers Flowzone who had just remembered a terrifying legend.

But many lives had already been lost.

On the peak, Starsibyl's expression changed. "No wonder it seemed so familiar. So that's butterfly topgrass. It looks like Kuang Wang's using his full strength."

"What's butterfly topgrass?" Han Chong was puzzled.

Starsibyl replied, "It's a plant-type astral beast. It has a very beautiful appearance, like a butterfly, but the moment it forms, it disperses all the star energy within its range and forms a true star energy vacuum. It is a very special plant and is also very powerful. Who knew that Kuang Wang had this trick up his sleeve."

Liu Xiaoyun replied, "That won't be of any use. Although the Thirteen Swords technique is propelled by star energy, it uses very little. As long as an area has even a sliver of star energy, the Thirteen Swords can be displayed."

Starsibyl smiled before saying, "The butterfly topgrass's most terrifying aspect is its tyranny. Its existence is mutually exclusive with star energy, which means that any star energy released from an attack will be repelled as soon as it touches those green light points without exception. To put it more simply, Liu Shaoqiu's sword qi will be reduced to a tenth of its power before it reaches Kuang Wang."

Everyone was shocked, as this was truly a tyrannical effect. Kuang Wang had hidden such a large trump card! It was no wonder why he had raised his battle force to the realm of three lines; it was all so that he could ignore star energy and rely purely on his physical body to fight against Liu Shaoqiu.

Many gazed in astonishment at Kuang Wang as the butterfly topgrass continued to spread. He was truly a monster from the Divine Grade Hall of the Beast Tamers Flowzone since he had even tamed this butterfly topgrass.

“Is this your trump card?” Liu Shaoqiu’s tone was still as indifferent as ever, and he did not seem to be particularly shocked by the grass.

Kuang Wang stood atop the grass and quietly replied, “I know that you’re not powerless just because your star energy has been sealed. After all, the Sword Sect does not just rely only on star energy. However, I have enough confidence to battle you as long as your Thirteen Swords technique is sealed.”

Liu Shaoqiu slowly raised his iron sword. “The sword serves the soldier. Weapons are classified into long and short-ranged weapons. However, you seem to have forgotten that the sword was originally a melee weapon.”

When he finished speaking, Liu Shaoqiu rushed forward, his body right behind his sword. His speed was so fast that he almost pierced through the void. He immediately stabbed at Kuang Wang, whose eyes had opened wide. Kuang Wang had three-lined battle force and was thus not afraid of melee combat in the slightest.

Liu Shaoqiu streaked past Kuang Wang like a blur, causing droplets of fresh blood to scatter onto the ground. Liu Shaoqiu slowly turned around. “You’re strong since you forced me into close-ranged combat. Unfortunately for you, the Thirteen Swords technique has no weaknesses.”

The green lights of the butterfly topgrass slowly dissipated from the Lifeseek Realm, leaving Kuang Wang in agony. He was actually the first academy leader to fall, although he wholeheartedly accepted his defeat in this battle.

No one dared to believe that Liu Shaoqiu had only slashed out with his sword thrice from start to end to defeat Kuang Wang, Astral-5’s leader. This was a very thrilling battle!

On the high peak, the other academy leaders remained silent. Liu Shaoqiu was different from the other geniuses who had joined the academy recently; he was truly capable of seizing the crown.

Additionally, a seat on the high peak had become vacant. Defeat meant that that student leader was no longer qualified to return to the high peak.

Chapter 215: Lu Yin’s Appearance

Kuang Wang’s defeat had shattered the notion that the academy leaders were unequalled in this tournament. The ten of them were powerful, but they could still be defeated. Once this thought entered the general public’s mind, it could not be contained. The remaining competitors all looked up towards the high peak without fail, wondering how many seats would remain after the Astral Combat Tournament concluded.

One of the key points that attracted students to the Astral Combat Academy was the Council of Astral Academy. The council members were under the Ten Arbiters’ wing after they joined. Only the respective academy leaders were able to join this Council.

Although Liu Shaoqiu had defeated Kuang Wang, that did not necessarily mean that he could join the Student Council. He would need to formally challenge his own academy's leader and win before he could join the Council of Astral Academy. However, by defeating an academy leader in the Astral Combat Tournament, he had demonstrated that he was capable of succeeding in a formal challenge. Everyone's gazes turned fiery at the thought of Liu Shaoqiu successfully taking a spot in the council.

The next two battles were very ordinary, and Han Chong and Xia Ye both won their battles. As for Xia Ye, many already saw him as someone who was just as strong as the student leaders, as he was a freak with four-lined battle force.

After Xia Ye's battle was Xue Liuyun's. The leader of Astral-4 had a cold face, and everyone expected that his battle would end quickly, like Han Chong's, but surprisingly, the situation that unfolded far surpassed their expectations. The battle quickly turned into a deadlock, as Xue Liuyun's opponent was Sha.

Sha had shown a powerful performance in his previous matches, and he had also defeated many powerhouses throughout the course of the tournament, including Hart Phoenix in his previous match. The shocking scene of him sealing the golden Undying Bird in ice and then skewering Hart to the ground with an ice spear had left a lasting impression in many people's minds, but despite that, no one believed that Sha could defeat Xue Liuyun. They were both from Astral-4, but Xue Liuyun was the Academy's Realm Master while Sha was only an Area Master.

But as the battle developed, it opened the audience's eyes, as Xue Liuyun could not get the better of Sha.

Out on the arena plains, the two powerhouses from Astral-4 had engaged in a chilling confrontation with neither side giving any ground. The difference was that Sha's performance was an icy block of ice while Xue Liuyun was more like a blizzard.

Atop the high peak, Dao Bo faintly said, "It's rumored that when Xue Liuyun was born, his planet suffered a devastating massacre where even the oceans were stained red. He is the only survivor from his planet."

Lu Yin was flabbergasted. "Was it revenge?"

Dao Bo shook his head. "A planet's evolutionary trial."

Lu Yin's eyes trembled and looked down at the arena again. Just then, Xue Liuyun's eyes had turned red. They weren't like Mira's pretty red eyes but instead a sanguine blood-red.

Soon after, an uncomfortable aura filled the plains. It made the spectators crease their brows as their faces turned red and their blood flow speeded up.

Lu Yin was stunned. Xue Liuyun's domain was what had affected the audience. It allowed him to control the blood in other people's bodies, which was a terrifying ability.

The blue layer of ice on Sha's body grew even colder as the icy blue chill continued to spread through the arena plains. At the same time, the discomforting aura of Xue Liuyun spread in a similar manner until the two domains finally collided. It was a formless yet fatal collision as whoever's domain prevailed would be the victor.

So far, during this Astral Combat Tournament, the highest level of battle force that had been demonstrated was four-lines, and the strongest domain belonged to Charon. During this battle, the two students were clashing in terms of their domains, and the battle between the icy blue and the sanguine red colors slowly became more and more apparent.

The entire arena plains was enveloped by the two domains, causing even the color of the air to change. It affected everyone, and the combination of the cold chill and quickened blood flow causing many to quake in fear. It felt like their body could explode at any moment.

“These two have focused all their strength in their domains. They’ve staked everything on this battle, and the outcome will soon be determined,” Feng Shang said with a sigh.

There were no obvious demarcations between each domain’s strength like with battle force. Everyone’s understanding and use of their domain was different. Although Charon had only recently comprehended his domain, its ability to increase the sensitivity of his five senses had great synergy with his Lockbreaker abilities. The two together meant that it would be very difficult to defeat him with any battle technique that was fueled by star energy, especially if it took place within the scope of his domain.

The two currently battling on the plains had complete control over every inch of space that had entered their domains. Now, they were each trying to invade the other’s domain. As time passed, the void above the plains began vibrating and traces of spatial cracks appeared, especially at the boundary line between the two domains. The originally formless nature of their domains had formed a shockingly large crack in the void between them. The separation between them bore a striking resemblance to a pitch black river that gradually extended as time went on.

Many people in front of their screens could not understand what was happening and merely stared blankly at the image in front of them. The two students had not taken a step, but the skies had completely changed color. This was the power of an Astral Combat Academy student leader.

On Earth, Zhou Shan and the others did not even dare to believe what they were seeing. Zhou Shan could not even fathom how much power was required to tear the void or what horrifying effects it would have.

In the First Military School of the Great Yu Empire, Jeraldine was similarly shocked by what she was seeing. This was the level of Lu Yin’s opponents, and it was too scary.

In the city in the sky, San Dios, even Wendy Yushan’s gaze turned solemn. The Outerverse Youth Council and the Council of Astral Academy had always been at the same level, and all members of both councils had agreed to this, but she had never felt comfortable about it. After all, the members of the Council of Astral Academy were at best Limiteers while the Outerverse Youth Council’s members were all space-exploring powerhouses. Even their subsidiary members were Explorers, like Bazeer.

She had always believed that the Council of Astral Academy was able to hold such a prestigious position because a few members of the Ten Arbiters had once studied at the Astral Combat Academy. However, as she continued to watch this Astral Combat Tournament, she finally got a grasp on just how powerful the strongest academy leaders at this top-notch institution were. Once they broke through to become Explorers, their power would definitely surpass ordinary Explorers, and they would even be qualified to immediately aim for a place within the Top 100 Rankings.

The Astral Combat Academy was just an institution, and those student leaders were still just students, but their current power only proved how extraordinarily talented they were. Once they gained more battle experience, they would improve even faster until they became powerhouses who could shock the heavens. It was no wonder why they were able to stand side by side with the Outerverse Youth Council.

The conflict between the two students' domains lasted for several minutes. The blue color was no longer as pure as it had been in the beginning, and neither was the red color.

Sha suddenly spat out a mouthful of blood, but then, the blood halted in midair and formed into a sharp blade that then sliced at Sha himself. Sha managed to dodge to the side at the critical moment, but the blood blade nicked his neck. The droplets of blood that dripped out also formed themselves into countless miniscule sharp blades that shot towards Sha, attempting to rip open more blood vessels. Sha's face paled as a layer of sturdy ice spread across his body and sealed half of his neck in ice, stopping the vicious cycle from continuing any further.

Many trembled at this scene as they stared at Xue Liuyun in horror. This power was too scary; one couldn't even shed blood when battling against this person! If they did, then their own blood would turn into his weapon, a weapon that was very difficult to defend against. Even more frightening, Xue Liuyun's domain also supplemented his innate gift, as he could cause a person's blood to explode within their own body. This killing method was simply impossible to defend against.

However, the situation was quickly reversed even though Sha was severely injured and had been forced to seal half of his neck in ice. Xue Liuyun's entire body became sealed in ice a moment later. The ice blue domain completely devoured the sanguine red domain as the ice sealed the entire arena, just as it had previously sealed Hart Phoenix.

A gale swept across the arena plains, and the cold flow of air continued on into the distance. Lulu shivered. "How cold."

The other spectators also felt the nearly unbearable extreme coldness. A river in the distance even froze when the freezing gale wafted over; this was Sha's domain.

When Xue Liuyun collapsed, it signified the second academy leader's defeat.

Many Astral Combat Academy students were rendered speechless by what had just happened. The academy leaders were supposed to be insurmountable, but two of them had already been defeated after just a few matches. It was very worrying for them.

Sha's power had been completely exposed as he had revealed that he was strong enough to defeat a student leader.

The next battle was between Liu Xiaoyun and a normal Area Master-level powerhouse who could not even receive two blade strikes from Liu Xiaoyun. After she returned to the high peak, a "13" appeared in front of Lu Yin. His turn to fight had come in the thirteenth battle of the fifth round.

At the same time, a girl appeared on the arena plains. She had an ordinary appearance and a calm expression. It was Chao Zhi.

When the matchup was revealed, much of the audience grew excited. The scene of Chao Zhi defeating Calcifer had been deeply imprinted into their memories. That image of Calcifer rotting to nothingness was enough to cause nightmares and that battle had been one of the most shocking in this season's Astral Combat Tournament. And now, Chao Zhi was going to face Astral-10's student leader.

Lu Yin also appeared in the arena plains.

Neither the spectating students surrounding the plains nor most of the people watching on their screens believed that Lu Yin could win. Chao Zhi's battle had caused a huge stir across the universe, and her victory had been so stunning that even outsiders could see that she was strong enough to pose a significant challenge to the academy leaders.

Lu Yin, on the other hand, was just a Melder, making him one level inferior to the other student leaders. Moreover, he was from the worst ranked academy, Astral-10. Even though he had crushed Long Yi, his match had not caused the same shock that Chao Zhi's victory over Calcifer had. Many still held the opinion that Lu Yin's position as Astral-10's leader was a distraction and that he could not compare to either Xia Luo or Silver.

On the high peak, Starsibyl, Han Chong, Dao Bo, and the rest all stared closely at Chao Zhi. They also did not think that Lu Yin would win this fight. This was especially true for Feng Shang; ever since he had recognized her battle technique as the Wind of Seasons, he had assumed that Chao Zhi would be his strongest competitor, as only he knew the true terror of the Wind of Seasons.

Lu Yin breathed in deeply as he stepped onto the arena plains for the second time. The Astral Combat Tournament had shaken the outside world greatly, but he was still a stranger in the broader universe as he had only fought once.

He raised his head to look at Chao Zhi. Her two eyes were still wandering all over the arena, just like when she had faced Calcifer. She acted as if she had no cares in the world.

Lu Yin frowned and thought back to the Wind of Seasons that Feng Shang mentioned. It couldn't be so terrifying as to even include concepts of time within it, right?

The Astral Combat Tournament was being broadcast to the entire universe, which meant that Lu Yin could not use the Cosmic Art or the Cosmic Palm. If an Astral-10 mentor could recognize their origins, then other terrifying powers in the universe would also be able to. After all, this technique did not have a proper origin, and it would be bad if those seeking the technique started hunting him down. Lu Yin felt a headache developing. If he couldn't use his Cosmic Art, then did that mean that he would have to reveal his battle force already?

Everyone looked at Lu Yin, who was deeply pondering his situation, and wondered what he was trying to do.

"Haha, Astral-10's leader must be scared. Chao Zhi instantly wiped out Calcifer, and Calcifer defeated Uro. That's the same Uro who multiple people from Astral-10 had to team up against to defeat him, as described in that newspaper article. This Lu Yin probably won't even dare to even make a move since he's facing Chao Zhi."

“That’s quite possible, but he’s still rather strong. After all, he was able to stomp Long Yi to death with one kick. That’s not bad at all.”

“Long Yi’s just a Melder, so how can he possibly compare to Chao Zhi? Chao Zhi instantly killed an Area Master!”

...

Everyone from Astral-10 was looking at Lu Yin with curious eyes, as even they did not know how strong he currently was.

Xia Luo’s eyes twinkled as he hoped that he wouldn’t be disappointed.

On Earth, almost everyone was fervently watching Lu Yin on the giant screens. The further he went in this tournament, the higher Earth’s reputation grew, as Lu Yin’s introduction had stated that his home planet was Earth.

On San Dios, Wendy Yushan remained calm. In her eyes, this person would only be able to walk to this point. She had seen Chao Zhi’s earlier battle, and this girl was definitely capable of rivaling the student leaders, well, aside from Astral-10’s. Lu Yin could not be considered as a true academy leader since the disparity in strength between him and the rest was just too great.

The Invisible Aura Technique that Undying Yushan had acquired in the Inniverse was too excellent; no one had seen through Lu Yin’s true strength thus far. It was impossible to gather any concrete data on Lu Yin even while he was battling.

Perhaps too much time had passed, but Chao Zhi was the first one to become impatient, and she casually waved a hand towards Lu Yin.

Many hearts skipped a beat as that familiar grey squall appeared again. It was this same grey squall that had caused Calcifer to rot into nothingness in her previous battle. He had not been seen again since.

Chapter 216: Lu Yin vs. Chao Zhi

Lu Yin’s eyes narrowed. Since he wasn’t able to use his Cosmic Art, he was unable to see through the true form of the grey wind. Without any other choice, he could only do what Grandini and Xia Ye had done before him; black battle force lined with purple stripes exploded out and covered his body. A moment later, he used Flash to disappear into the void before reappearing before Chao Zhi and kicking out.

“Three-lined battle force?” someone exclaimed in surprise.

Everyone stared at Lu Yin in shock when he revealed his battle force; there were very few students in the Astral Combat Academy who possessed this much power.

Frankfurt gaped in shock. He only had two-lined battle force himself, and yet, he had killed Lu Yin in a single blow some time ago. How had this person advanced so far in such a short period of time?

There was a loud rumble, and Chao Zhi took several steps backwards. The ground cracked from the sheer impact of Lu Yin’s kick. As the gales of grey wind swept over Lu Yin, the battle force covering his

body cracked. Shockingly, even three-lined battle force was not able to completely resist the destructive effects of this wind. It was no wonder that Calcifer had instantly died to it.

The gales continued to buffet the arena plains until even the void wasn't able to take it anymore. Small lines of shattered space streaked down like raindrops, tearing through the ground.

The three-lined battle force covering Lu Yin's body started to disappear. Once it was completely gone, his body would have to bear the full brunt of the eroding force. At most, he had about five seconds left.

Atop the peak, the leaders of the various academies were not at all surprised by how the fight was going. Feng Shang sighed. "Even three-lined battle force can't withstand the Wind of Seasons. I wonder where that woman learned that battle technique."

Starsibyl nonchalantly replied, "Chao Zhi should be the genius who was chased into the Astral Wilderness thirty years ago."

"You know her?" Feng Shang was surprised by this piece of information.

She smiled. "I divinated that bit."

Feng Shang rolled his eyes, obviously not believing her.

"If Chao Zhi really is that same girl, then things are about to get interesting. Back then, she was able to escape because of another technique, not this Wind of Seasons," Starsibyl said with a curious gleam in her eyes.

Han Chong, Dao Bo and the others were all astonished. So the Wind of Seasons isn't even her most powerful technique?

As the three-lined battle force broke down, everyone thought Lu Yin was done for. Even Undying Yushan was no different. The fact that Lu Yin had been able to get to this point with just a year's work showed that he was definitely a genius, but that just meant there was a difference between him and these monsters because they hadn't had the same starting point.

Within Astral-10's space station, Madam Nalan sipped her tea and calmly watched on without blinking, the ghost of a smile at her lips. How could someone who had survived in outer space as a Melder be taken down by the erosion of some mere wind?

As Lu Yin's three-lined battle force broke down, the grey winds began to erode his body. But an instant later, purple streams of air appeared around him that shocked everyone.

Numerous people gaped in disbelief. "Fo-fo-four-lined battle force!"

All of the student leaders' eyes went wide. How is this possible?

Nobody thought that Lu Yin had actually cultivated his battle force to four lines. This included both the students and mentors of Astral-10. They were far more surprised than anyone else as they knew that Lu Yin had only recently comprehended battle force.

Outside the plains, Xi Yue covered her mouth in shock when she saw the dazzling purple lines circulating around Lu Yin. It really is four lines! How did he do it so quickly? Even with the help from her family, she had only been able to cultivate one line.

On the plains, Chao Zhi was shocked, and for the first time, revealed a serious look. Four-lined battle force was a symbol of pure, overwhelming physical power. Any opponent who had four-lined battle force was sure to be a very powerful foe and not to be underestimated.

Lu Yin clenched his fists and grinned. His near-death experience on Driftcharge Planet had caused his strength to undergo an incredible transformation. Before that, he had been about as strong as an Area Master; he could not even win against Uro by himself and had needed Xia Luo and the others' help. But after his experience on Driftcharge Planet, Uro had become someone who Lu Yin could trample over without too much effort.

It was at this time that he finally understood why the Ten Arbiters were so far from everyone's reach. They were all of the same generation, but the difference between them was so vast that it was unimaginable. In the past, he had merely thought that the Ten Arbiters were powerful, but still in the same generation as him. Now, however, that puerile understanding had turned into a heated anticipation and fervor, as he now saw the possibility of approaching their level.

Yet another person with four-lined battle force had appeared in the Astral Combat Tournament. This display of power startled all of the powerhouses in the academies watching from their screens. Regardless of whether it was in the outer or innerverse, battle force was the symbol of a genius, and another one had emerged from the Astral Combat Academy. It was shocking.

Lu Yin's four-lined battle force's robust defense was able to completely block the Winds of Season. After confirming his status, Lu Yin stared at Chao Zhi for a second before slowly raising his right fist and punching out. He was already quite strong, and now, his physical strength was even greater than Lulu's. With his battle force added on top of that, each of his punches were able to shatter the void even if he didn't use any battle techniques. Visible shock waves rippled throughout the entire arena, destroying everything in their path.

Chao Zhi's gaze turned cold as she quickly pulled back. In front of her, the force from Lu Yin's fist had caused space to splinter layer by layer, which intensified its power even further. If the mentors outside the plains had not stopped the spread of the spatial cracks from reaching the audience, even the spectating Area Masters might have died from this attack.

Lu Yin's single punch was more powerful than even Xia Ye's or Cang Shi's.

Chao Zhi suddenly stopped in place as her Wind of Seasons disappeared. What appeared next was a purple battle force that rose into the skies, just like Lu Yin's. Like an unstoppable tornado, the battle force swept through the entire area and canceled out the shock waves from Lu Yin's attack.

Yet another person with four-lined battle force had appeared!

Many people were shocked speechless once more. Another person with four-lined battle force? Since when was four-lined battle force this common?

Up on the peak, Starsibyl chuckled fascinatedly before saying, "Yes, the reason why she was able to successfully escape from her pursuers was thanks to her battle force. However, she only had three lines back then. Now, it seems that she has four."

Chao Zhi's strength left everyone shocked. She was definitely powerful enough to be a leader of an academy, just like Lu Yin. Once again, two people with four-lined battle force had been matched up against each other, just like Cang Shi and Xia Ye before them.

Lu Yin sighed in admiration. "Four-lined battle force! You're pretty good."

Chao Zhi still had a calm expression. "You're no match for me."

"Why not?" Lu Yin was baffled by her confidence.

Chao Zhi slowly turned around. "Even though we both have four-lined battle force, there are various levels within each realm. The body is what houses battle force, and my body is something that I am very confident in." After that, she completed her turn and viciously kicked at Lu Yin, but he simply lifted his left arm and smiled.

Boom!

With an explosive sound, the ground was fractured as a huge, deep pit that was over a hundred meters in circumference appeared out of nowhere. Then, a huge fissure snaked past Lu Yin's feet until it sliced off a section of the mountain peak. Clouds of dust filled the skies.

Chao Zhi's pupils constricted as she looked at Lu Yin in disbelief. She was still in her kicking stance with one leg out even as Lu Yin maintained his stance of using only his left arm to block her leg. The area under his feet was pristine and he hadn't moved at all.

"I'm sorry, but I'm confident that my body is stronger than yours," Lu Yin said nonchalantly before he lifted a leg and kicked out. His kick landed right on Chao Zhi's abdomen, causing her to cough out some blood as her entire body was sent flying. She wanted to twist her body to dissipate the blow, but was prevented from doing so by some terrifying force. Then, nine distinct, consecutive explosions rung out from within her body.

It was a Nine Stacks powered kick. The ninth explosion nearly forced her into a spatial tear.

Lu Yin bent his knees, and his entire body vanished. When he reappeared, he was already above her, punching down once again.

Chao Zhi's pupils shrank even more as she hurriedly met the fist with her right knee. The concussive blast sent out another round of shock waves rippling out, tearing up the ground and sending billowing clouds of dust into the sky as the entire arena plains shook. Chao Zhi's right leg was shattered, and her entire body was smashed deep into the ground by Lu Yin. He lifted his right fist again before saying, "It's over."

As he spoke, he punched out one last time, causing everything within a hundred meters of him to disintegrate into powder. Next, everything within a thousand meters of him followed suit before, finally, the entire plains was pulverized. Everything had been turned to dust.

In front of their screens, countless people stared at the scene in shock. The destructive power that they had just witnessed was enough to horrify anyone. This was the Lifeseek Realm of the trial zones. No matter how powerful someone was, even with battle force, they should only be able to destroy a small area. However, Lu Yin had destroyed the entire stage and the entire plains with a single move. Even the peak of a hill far off in the distance had been affected and turned to dust as well.

Numerous students from the Astral Combat Academy looked at Lu Yin in fear. This was the so-called figurehead of Astral-10? What a load of crap! What figurehead was this terrifying? This person was definitely strong enough to claim the title of leader. He even had four-lined battle force! He was basically a monster in human form!

With that single punch, Chao Zhi had ceased to exist within the Lifeseek Realm. Even though both students possessed four-lined battle force, Chao Zhi had been rendered virtually powerless against Lu Yin. Lu Yin's body was much too powerful, and even he himself did not know the true limits of his body.

The Great Yu Empire was going crazy with excitement as numerous people chanted King Zishan's name exuberantly. Even though they did not personally know him, he was still the King Zishan of their empire. This name had once been a household name in the Great Yu Empire because of the Undying duo. And now, the fifth princess, Wendy Yushan, had a reputation that was just as great in the rest of the universe and a King Zishan with the same level of fame had appeared as well.

People were also going crazy back on Earth. Compared to the citizens of the Great Yu Empire, Zhou Shan and the others were more shocked and surprised at how quickly Lu Yin had improved. They might not understand battle force, domains, or even what the Lifeseek Realm was, but they did know that Lu Yin had won.

At this same time, on Saint Dios, Wendy Yushan looked at her screen in surprise. She gazed at the calm Lu Yin with a pondering expression on her face.

Elsewhere, Bazeer had gone pale. How could this have happened? A tiny ant managed to reach that point!? Impossible! That's four-lined battle force! Bazeer himself hadn't even grasped battle force at all, but an ant that he had once looked down upon had already reached four-lined battle force! A large feeling of regret for how he had handled some matters in the past welled up within him now.

The plains had been completely destroyed in that battle, but with the mentors' amazing abilities, it was quickly restored to its previous state.

Lu Yin returned to the high peak and calmly sat down in the tenth seat.

This time, nobody doubted or mocked him. There was nothing other than respect, worship, and fear in the audience's eyes. Lu Yin had truly obtained the glory that this seat represented.

Clap clap clap!

Feng Shang loudly applauded as he looked at Lu Yin in admiration. "That was amazing, Brother Lu. Your performance was very impressive."

Calling him "Brother Lu" was a sign of Feng Shang's approval.

Lu Yin chuckled before replying, "It was just a warmup. Please, don't think too much of it."

Nightqueen Yanqing surreptitiously studied Lu Yin with a bit of apprehension and did not speak.

Liu Xiaoyun still had a look of shock on her face; she'd judged him wrongly! She had assumed that Lu Yin was nothing more than a figurehead, but in reality, he was a very powerful person no weaker than she herself. How had she not noticed anything at all? This person must have cultivated a terrifying technique that hid his strength.

Starsibyl looked at Lu Yin with twinkling eyes, smiling but not speaking.

The next round was between Silver and Long Ze. Long Ze had proven himself during the Three Academies Guarding the Gate stage when he managed to stall Chilian Daynight for a period of time. At that moment, many people had been surprised by his strength that had reached the level of an Area Master. But now, however, the tournament had progressed so far that an Area Master was no longer anything special. Rather, it would be more accurate to say that, at this stage of the tournament, an Area Master was nothing. The real surprises were people like Lu Yin, Liu Shaoqiu, and Chao Zhi.

Silver's domain was enough to defeat Long Ze, and nothing surprising happened.

The next two rounds featured Ka Long and Liu Yin. There were no surprises during these battles, and they both won. And with that, the fifth elimination round had ended; sixteen people still remained.

Those who had reached this stage in the current tournament were as strong as the finalists of past tournaments. However, this tournament had not even reached its semifinals yet.

Chapter 217: Lost And Found

The number of strong contestants in this Astral Combat Tournament made the other strong organizations that had long held desires of taking over the Astral Academy feel a deep sense of despair. They had belatedly discovered that even the strongest of their younger generation was only at the level of a regular Area Master, and none of them had reached the current stage of this Astral Combat Tournament. This was the sad reality of the situation.

The most outstanding participants in this tournament weren't monsters like Liu Shaoqiu who had only recently joined the academy, but rather, it was those from Astral-10. Ever since the director of Astral-10 had gone crazy a thousand years ago and nearly destroyed Astral-10, that branch of the Astral Combat Academy had lost its splendor. But now, three of the sixteen people who had reached the sixth round were from the previously fallen academy. This was simply a jaw-dropping result.

Even during the fifth round, a lot of students had started looking at the students of Astral-10 strangely, which frightened Coco so much that she had immediately left.

Silver smiled as he surveyed his surroundings. His unsettling grin made a shiver run down everyone's spines.

Xia Luo's expression was just as gentle as always, and he had even captured quite a few girls' hearts during this tournament.

Up on the peak overlooking the fields, Lu Yin stood up. He wasn't that tall, but he still managed to dominate the atmosphere. "I'll see you all during the battles of the final sixteen." After that, he disappeared.

Feng Shang stretched out lazily as he commented, "Did you hear that? He's challenging us, haha."

Nightqueen Yanqing narrowed her eyes. Although Lu Yin had shown that he had four-lined battle force, she still did not see him as someone who could truly rival her. At most, she felt a bit of caution towards him. The opponents who she was the most concerned about were Starsibyl and Han Chong.

The sixth round of the elimination battles would start after a day so that both the participants and spectators would have ample time to rest.

Lu Yin opened his eyes on the trial zone mountain and was immediately greeted by a crowd of surprised faces. "What's wrong?"

"What's wrong?' What do you mean, 'what's wrong?!' Dude, tell us if you have some secret way to train your battle force!" Big Pao exclaimed in an exaggerated manner. Everyone stared at Lu Yin with a curious expression.

Lu Yin nodded and simply replied, "Yup."

Everyone was shocked. Was he being serious?

"What is it?" Big Pao asked.

Lu Yin smirked. "Die."

Everyone rolled their eyes as they thought that Lu Yin was joking. Unfortunately, it wasn't a joke. His hellish experience on Driftcharge Planet was what had allowed him to transform and reach his current state. When he used Arcane Art - Fatal Revival for the first time, it had dug out his huge potential and raised his battle force to three lines. He had only gained the fourth line after he used the technique for a second time. He had died, and that was a fact. Unfortunately, there was no way to safely replicate those experiences. He had suffered true deaths, and even Lu Yin had no idea how he'd managed to survive both times.

"You'll need to protect me from now on, Brother Lu." Coco drew close and looked up at Lu Yin with an adorable smile on her little face. Lu Yin burst into laughter and fondly patted her on the head.

Lulu raised her fist. "After I raise my battle force to four lines, let's fight again."

Off in the distance, Michelle looked at Lu Yin, the awe in her eyes yet to dissipate. She saw him in a completely different light from when she had first entered the academy. At that time, she had truly wanted to recommend that the academy be expelled, but now, she really did approve of Astral-10, especially after realizing that many of its students weren't weak. Even the weakest students, Coco, Schutz, and the rest, were no weaker than the average student from the other academies, and that wasn't even mentioning the mysterious Xia Luo, Silver, and the strongest of them all, Lu Yin.

Liu Xiaoyun walked down from the peak of the trial zone mountain, her presence shocking everyone.

"Why's there another living person here?" Zora yelled in shock.

Liu Xiaoyun frowned as Zora's phrasing hadn't been very nice. She looked at Lu Yin and quietly said, "I apologize for looking down on you before."

Lu Yin smiled. "It's alright."

Liu Xiaoyun then matter-of-factly said, "The trial zone mountains are the entrances to the trial zones. The higher you are on the mountain, the higher your position. I'll let you have the peak." After that, she quietly walked away.

Lu Yin casually glanced at the peak. It was high, but he didn't really like it. It felt too arrogant to occupy that position, and it wasn't time for such things yet. "Take the peak if you like it. Astral-10 doesn't have any rules about stuff like this."

Nobody here really cared about their appearances. Astral-10 only had fourteen students in total, so who cared about who sat at the top of the mountain?

Meanwhile, at the border of the Erudite Flowzone, Grand Marshal Shui Chuanxiao clasped his hands behind his back and looked out into space. Numerous planets had been lined up to form a net, and outside this line of defense was the Astral Beast Domain, where humans had difficulty stepping foot into. It was vast and mysterious.

"We only need to show two more battles. There's no need to reveal all of our cards to the entire universe in one sitting. They'll be the future heroes of the human race, and we don't need them to get on the Heaven-Devouring List already," Shui Chuanxiao said.

Behind him, an officer respectfully said, "I'll let the Astral Combat Academy know right away, sir."

"Wait." Shui Chuanxiao suddenly turned towards the huge map and pointed at one of the lines of defense. "Who's the guardian for this point?"

"He's from Culture Flowzone's Lost Radiance Academy, and his name is Qu Ao."

"What about here?"

"The Beast Tamers Flowzone's First Hall's Sir Gloria."

"What about here?"

...

As he studied the map, Shui Chuanxiao suddenly said, "Notify the Astral Combat Academy that all top sixteen participants are to come to the Human Domain border, with the final four being the groups' leaders. They'll be in charge of guarding our line of defense."

The officer was shocked. "Sir, it's way too dangerous out there. The academy won't agree to this."

Shui Chuanxiao snickered as he replied, "That's a direct order from me. I don't need their approval for this."

"Yes, sir."

"By the way, is there another powerhouse on the other side right now?"

The officer sternly answered, "Yes, Yao Gu. He's a Void Thunderbeast who's third on the Beast Region's Heavenly Beast List."

Shui Chuanxiao was shocked. “Yao Gu? You mean the one who got on the Skymender List and was able to fight evenly against Serati Phoenix of the Ten Arbiters?”

“Yes, sir.”

Shui Chuanxiao frowned. This was a troublesome matter, as Yao Gu was someone who was able to single handedly reverse the course of the entire war. “Inform the Ten Arbiters Council right away. We’ll need the Ten Arbiters for this as well. Let them know about Yao Gu.”

“Yes, sir,” the officer answered, but then he hesitated. “Since Yao Gu’s here, the borders will be even more dangerous. Those students...”

“Do as I said.”

“Yes, sir.”

...

Elsewhere in space, a spacecraft drew close to Astral-10. The people aboard had been ordered by a girl from the Daynight Family to deliver a cosmic ring to the leader of Astral-10, Lu Yin.

As it neared Astral-10, the spacecraft jolted before quickly steadying itself. The people inside did not mind this small disturbance, though nobody noticed that there was now another individual in their hold—someone very important as well.

The spacecraft successfully docked in Astral-10, and Little Pao came out to welcome them.

“Please tell the leader of the academy, Lu Yin, that Miss Zhao Daynight has asked us to return this cosmic ring to him,” a person courteously told Little Pao.

Little Pao accepted the ring and nodded, but just as he was about to respond, a figure suddenly appeared in the space station. It was the Rainmaster.

Little Pao was shocked. “Rainmaster?”

Nearby, Madam Nalan was able to see Rainmaster from her spacecraft.

The Rainmaster had a serious expression as he scanned the space station. A cold gleam suddenly appeared in his eyes. “I sense a familiar aura.”

As he spoke, the star energy within the space station started going crazy until the outline of a huge being rejecting the star energy could be seen. This activity made it impossible for him to hide, so he took a large step forwards, attempting to charge out into space, but it was all in vain.

The Rainmaster mockingly taunted, “Since you’re here, don’t leave, Void Thunderbeast.”

Void Thunderbeast? The rest were startled. They’d heard of this creature’s name before. It was the number three race on the Beast Region’s Heavenly Beast List. Each one was a powerful astral beast. Was this mysterious creature a Void Thunderbeast?

Roar!

An earth-shattering cry filled Astral-10. Sparks of electricity arced into the void, trying to destabilize space so as to carve out a path of escape. This was a Void Thunderbeast that had attained the power of a Cruiser.

The Rainmaster was not at all surprised; the reason why these beasts were ranked third was because every mature Void Thunderbeast would naturally gain the ability to traverse the universe without a spacecraft. It was a very powerful race. "Stay here."

"You can't make me stay here, human!" the Void Thunderbeast exclaimed furiously. A bolt of lightning zigzagged through the air, and the beast disdainfully glared at Astral-10 before charging into the void.

This was a Void Thunderbeast's survival method, which made them quite difficult to kill. For example, even though this beast was merely a Cruiser, he had mysterious escape methods that even a Hunter could not stop.

But the Rainmaster suddenly raised his hand and tapped the space before him. The void distorted as the previous tear reappeared once more. Then, a shower of blood and a huge beast in a pitiful state suddenly emerged from nowhere. This was the true form of the Void Thunderbeast.

The Void Thunderbeast was bewildered. "That's impossible! This is just a human academy and the worst one out of them all at that! How can Astral-10 possibly force me to use my true strength? This is impossible!"

"Don't kid yourself. Even your ancestors don't have the guts to come to Astral-10. How dare you?!" Rainmaster exclaimed.

The Void Thunderbeast trembled as he realized something, "You're an Enlighter! A human Enlighter! No! I don't want to die! Yao Gu is my master! You can't kill me! I'm just searching for something that he lost at his request. Please don't kill me..."

Boom!

The Void Thunderbeast exploded without receiving a response, and his huge body disappeared into space.

Little Pao, Madam Nalan, and the rest all looked on in shock. This was a battle that they could not understand at all. Everything had taken place in the void, which was an alien environment they could not comprehend at all. The beast had died so quickly, and the Rainmaster hadn't even asked him anything.

Little Pao had never seen the Rainmaster with such a grim look before.

Madam Nalan looked at the Rainmaster gravely. At some point, everyone had assumed that Astral-10 was a just regular academy and that the mentors who had stayed behind were nothing more than Hunters. Now, however, the Rainmaster had displayed a strength that definitely superseded that of a mere Hunter. Right before his death, the Void Thunderbeast had said that this man was an Enlighter. That meant that the mentor was an Enlighter, which was an entire realm above Hunter.

Why was there an Enlighter in an academy that had been chased out of the Inniverse? Could the rumors be true? After the director had gone crazy a thousand years ago, had Astral-10 actually been turned into a prison?

The Rainmaster watched the twisting void settle down as he regained his calmness. He turned towards Little Pao and then left without saying a word.

Little Pao let out a pent up breath. That was terrifying! That power, which was able to destroy the void with just a tap of the finger, was horrifying.

That Void Thunderbeast had been pretty unlucky as well. He had been ordered to look for the bank card that Yao Gu had lost, but he had just ended up being killed for its efforts.

The bank card itself wasn't all that important, but its owner's identity was. Yao Gu was the one who had lost it, and he was an Astral Beast powerhouse comparable to the Ten Arbiters of the Human Domain. Thus, someone who could steal his bank card without him noticing had to be more than they seemed. Yao Gu had initially just wanted this Void Thunderbeast to investigate in secret, but his lackey had underestimated Astral-10 and tried to barge straight in, resulting in his very pitiful death.

Within the Human Domain, there were very few who were able to kill a Cruiser realm Void Thunderbeast. It was just this beast's rotten luck that he'd run into one.

Not long after, Lu Yin excitedly accepted the cosmic ring from Little Pao; he never thought that he'd be able to get it back.

"Apparently, a woman from the Daynight clan got someone to send it to you," Little Pao said.

Lu Yin grunted in acknowledgement. "Thanks, Little Pao."

Little Pao nodded and then went back to get some rest.

Chapter 218: A Battle Between Lockbreakers

Lu Yin searched through his cosmic ring as a smile slowly spread across his face. He never thought that he would actually recover what he thought had been lost forever, as there were plenty of valuable items he had painstakingly accumulated. There were 97,500 star crystals and another 710,000 crystals in the form of a Mavis Bank card in it. It was a huge sum, and it was a huge boon that he had recovered it all. At least he hadn't saved Zhuo Daynight for nothing.

Lu Yin raised his head. He had been relatively certain that the Leo clan would not dare to kill Zhuo Daynight when they found her. And it seemed like this woman had indeed escaped safely due to her background.

Lu Yin's gaze turned peaceful. If he had the Daynight clan as his background, then he would not have experienced that desolate nightmare on Driftcharge Planet. Instead, he would have been rescued by the Leo clan before being respectfully escorted to the Inniverse. He would never have been dropped onto some slave planet to become white meat.

Unknowingly, Lu Yin's wandering thoughts reached into his past and reminded him of something else. He retrieved a ring from the returned cosmic ring. This was the Great Yu Empire's Ring of Authority. If Undying Yushan died, then anyone with this ring would be able to command the empire's troops. He

had originally wanted to reject this ring, but his mindset had changed after surviving that calamity on Driftcharge Planet. He put the ring on his finger and found that it fit him surprisingly well.

A day quickly passed by, and everyone once again gathered at the arena plains to watch the tournament. The entire Human Domain seemed to quiet down as everyone watched the broadcast screens with rapt attention. The round of the top sixteen was about to begin.

Atop the high peak overlooking the fields, Xue Liuyun and Kuang Wang did not appear at their previous seats since losers were not qualified to sit there. This was the harshness of reality.

When Lu Yin appeared, many gave him looks of fear when they remembered how he had killed Chao Zhi, a four-lined battle force user.

The battles between the strongest sixteen would undoubtedly be much more exciting than the battles of the previous rounds, and more people came to watch as well. The first match already included one of the student leaders. Dao Bo was Astral-6's leader, the Dao of Purgatory's Realm Master, and one of the brightest up-and-coming genius Lockbreakers in the Lockbreaker Society. Like Charon, he was a single step away from raising his rank to that of an Intermediate Lockbreaker. The main difference between the two was that Dao Bo only lacked the power while Charon lacked both power and actual lockbreaking ability. Hence, Dao Bo was much more terrifying than Charon.

His opponent was Xia Luo.

When he saw Xia Luo, Dao Bo's eyes gleamed. He admired this shocking lockbreaking genius from the next generation, but he knew that Xia Luo had not quite matured yet.

Lu Yin frowned when he saw the matchup. Xia Luo was definitely quite powerful, as he had easily dissipated Jared's Karmic Flame Sword and inherited battle technique from the Dao of Illusion, but this battle would be against Dao Bo. He was on an entirely different level compared to Xia Luo's other opponents, and Lu Yin wondered how far Xia Luo would be able to go.

Everyone in Astral-10 looked at Xia Luo sympathetically, but Xia Luo had a relaxed expression as he stepped onto the plains in a relaxed manner. He faced Dao Bo and cordially said, "Senior, please guide me."

Dao Bo smiled. "I'm a Limiteer, and you're a Melder. This battle's not too fair for you. Since we're both Lockbreakers, why don't we compete by mutually trying to dissipate the other's star energy?"

Xia Luo smiled. "I'll follow senior's suggestion then."

Dao Bo nodded. "Alright then, let's begin."

As soon as Dao Bo finished speaking, the two simultaneously attacked each other. They both struck out with seemingly casual palms that collided without any no earth-shattering tremors. But between them, two seas of star energy clashed, as if heaven and earth had been split into two halves. This included not only the star energy within their bodies, but also the ambient star energy within the arena. The two students constantly dissipated the other's star energy as if they were trying to take control of heaven and earth. This was a battle between Lockbreakers.

Lockbreakers only had eyes for star energy, and they specialized in dissipating all forms of star energy. This was the basis of Lockbreaking, and right now, in Dao Bo and Xia Luo's eyes, their opponent was like a sourcebox, an item that had been sealed away by star energy.

Gradually, the two bodies of star energy formed vortices and began attacking each other. They collided in the sky, and although the impact was obviously formless, it still felt like heaven had crashed into the earth. Many audience members became dizzy from the massive impact, but before they could recover, two abnormal waves swept out almost simultaneously—domains.

Impressively, Xia Luo had also comprehended a domain.

A similar scene had once appeared before, when Sha fought against Xue Liuyun. Their battle had also been a confrontation between domains. The difference was that their battle had been one of direct confrontation where each tried to suppress the other, but in this current battle, the domains were trying to dispel each other. This was something at least a few levels more difficult than suppression.

The sky and earth contorted in a strange manner, as if one was looking into a running stream. One student couldn't restrain his curiosity and extended his hand past the energy barrier separating the stage from the audience and into the space beyond. His entire body was instantly shattered, causing the nearby students to jump in fright.

Normal people could not understand a battle between Lockbreakers, only Lockbreakers could.

In Lu Yin's eyes, the arena had become very dangerous. Between the two fighters, Xia Luo was on the losing end as his star energy was gradually being dissolved and replaced by an almost invisible silver grey energy.

Not long after, the two canceled their domains at the same time, and Xia Luo smiled. "Congratulations, senior. You win."

Dao Bo replied, "You're pretty good. No worse than Charon."

Xia Luo smiled and left the Lifeseek Realm while Dao Bo silently returned to the high peak and sat down.

Many were perplexed by what had happened, but no one asked for clarification. Some people needed to act like they understood even if they didn't.

Lu Yin glanced at Dao Bo and silently praised him admiringly. If Lu Yin did not use his Cosmic Art, he wouldn't even be qualified to take part in such a battle. His control of star energy was still far too low.

After the first battle ended, the second one started, featured Liu Xiaoyun and Tu Bo.

Liu Xiaoyun had not originally thought much about Tu Bo. Although her opponent had also reached the top sixteen stage in the tournament, in her eyes, he was still just an Area Master and not at the Realm Master level. However, she realized that she had underestimated Tu Bo soon after their match started, as her opponent's use of water was inconceivable.

Lu Yin and the other academy leaders were shocked as well. This Tu Bo is quite powerful.

On the arena plains, streams of sword qi criss-crossed while rampaging rivers wreaked havoc. An unstoppable sword qi battle technique was continuously blocked by the soft flow of water, neutralizing all of Liu Xiaoyun's attacks.

Minutes later, Liu Xiaoyun looked at Tu Bo in astonishment. She solemnly raised her sword as her clothes fluttered on the windless plains. Her eyes gleamed as a shock wave burst out from beneath her feet. A cold shiver ran down many people's spines, as if a knife was hanging above their necks. This was a domain, but among the student leaders, it was not uncommon to have a domain.

The void in the sky split open in a sword shape that covered the entire arena plains.

Countless spectators felt their jaws drop open as they stared at this scene in shock. Liu Xiaoyun's domain had shaped the void into a sword that encompassed the entire arena plains, including the void. Tu Bo had no choice but to face it directly.

Outside the arena, Liu Shaoqiu's eyes remained calm, and they even held a hint of disdain.

Then, an endless storm of sword qi descended on the arena. It was as if countless shards of the void were falling onto the earth. The entire space became unstable, making many observers feel numb. Each blade in this sword rain could instantly kill an Area Master by itself, and this move could easily eliminate a magnificent army.

The countless audience members viewing their screens throughout the universe were also shocked; this was a terrifying sight that had been caused by a mere Limiteer. Once Liu Xiaoyun became an Explorer, what would this move of hers look like? If it were able to destroy battleships, then she would definitely become an important strategic powerhouse.

A portion of the arena plains was destroyed by her domain, and Tu Bo was forced to crouch on the ground. Only the ground beneath him was still intact, even if he appeared rather unsightly.

Liu Xiaoyun looked at Tu Bo, who had not died yet.

At this point, a strong gale blew over and shredded the back of Tu Bo's jacket. The torn cloth flapped in the wind, revealing three green leaves, the symbol of Shamrock Enterprises.

"Shamrock Enterprises? He's a seed from Shamrock Enterprises!" someone cried out.

Many gazed at Tu Bo in wonder. It was widely known that Shamrock Enterprises actively looked for children with fantastic innate gifts in the universe and then marked them before allowing them to mature naturally. They would then join Shamrock Enterprises later on in the future. These people were called "seeds," and each seed was an absolute genius. Astral-10's Darkvoid was one, and this Tu Bo was obviously another.

Liu Xiaoyun was shocked by this development; it was no wonder why he had been so powerful as to stand up to her endless torrent of swords. He was a seed of Shamrock Enterprises.

Tu Bo slowly stood up, revealing countless bloody marks on his body even though he did not seem to be severely injured. He calmly looked at Liu Xiaoyun before suddenly raising his hand. Streams of water flowed around Liu Xiaoyun before tightly binding her. The ball of water sealing her then spun rapidly,

directly isolating the void. With a wave of Tu Bo's hand, the water ball was thrown into a spatial tear. Regardless of how strong someone was, it would be very difficult for anyone beneath the Explorer realm to escape from the void of nothingness.

Tu Bo did not need to defeat Liu Xiaoyun; his plan was just to throw her into the void.

But just before Liu Xiaoyun completely entered the void, a flash of light streaked through the arena, and Tu Bo collapsed directly; he had died. But not even two seconds after he died, Liu Xiaoyun's body fully entered the void. That meant that she could only leave the Lifeseek Realm by dying. This match had ended in mutual destruction.

Many stared at Tu Bo's corpse in shock, unable to comprehend how he had perished.

Only Liu Shaoqiu, standing outside the plains, understood. With gleaming eyes, he marvelled, "Elder sister, you actually managed to imitate the first sword of the Thirteen Swords. You're still as stubborn as ever."

No one had expected this match to end in both fighters' deaths. In reality, if not for Liu Xiaoyun's last sword strike, she would have been defeated. However, since Tu Bo had died before Liu Xiaoyun, it was actually her victory.

Feng Shang had an ugly expression, as every academy leader besides him had already fought a challenging battle. With Liu Xiaoyun's death, three of them had died, and their prestige was gradually eroding. They could not afford to suffer any more defeats in the subsequent matches.

For the next match, a number appeared before Han Chong. Another academy leader was set to fight, although many felt strange that there hadn't been any matches yet that featured two academy leaders. The Astral Combat Academy was being too blatant about avoiding such a match.

Han Chong's opponent was Xia Ye. A lot of people gazed at Xia Ye respectfully as he had actually cultivated four-lined battle force; could Han Chong stand up to him?

The current rankings of the ten academies followed the previous season's tournament rankings. Aside from Astral-1 and Astral-10, whose positions had not changed for a thousand years, the other eight academies almost always saw some shifting in their positions. Although Han Chong was Astral-2's leader, that did not necessarily mean that he could defeat Dao Bo or Feng Shang, two leaders of lower ranked academies.

"Old Chong, gain some face back for us," Feng Shang said as Han Chong tapped on the number and appeared in the center of the arena. Xia Ye was already down there, waiting.

Many of the competitors' trump cards had already been revealed by this stage, and Xia Ye was one of them. He immediately activated his four-lined battle force when he saw Han Chong. Xia Ye leaped across the arena and punched out, with the clear intention of using his physical strength to directly crush his opponent.

At the same time, on the peak, Starsibyl, Nightqueen Yanqing, and the few other remaining leaders stared at Han Chong. None of them had seen any of Han Chong's hidden trump cards so far; just how far did his strength go?

Lu Yin also stared at Han Chong. This person's strength-concealing technique was not inferior to Lu Yin's own in any way. Rather, it could be said that all of the student leaders had various methods to conceal their strength, but for some reason, Lu Yin felt that Han Chong had hidden his strength especially deeply.

Xia Ye's fist split the void, traveling straight for Han Chong.

Chapter 219: Big Windy Bro

Han Chong had a calm expression as he spread out his arms. His star energy emerged from his body and took on the form of a picturesque scenery of mountains and seas. Xia Ye's four-lined battle force covered first was directly blocked by this thin-looking star energy that had been shaped into mountains and seas. He was shocked, but then a strange expression flickered across his face when he saw this mountains and seas painting. A trace of ecstasy seemed to enter his eyes.

Boom!

The landscape painted with star energy rushed at Xia Ye, expanding limitlessly as it crashed down into the earth. Xia Ye foolishly stood in his original spot, letting his body be smashed into pieces by this star energy painting of mountains and seas.

Everyone was stunned; this battle had been too fast! A four-lined battle force user had been wiped out just like that.

Han Chong was also slightly stumped by what had happened, as Xia Ye should not have been that weak. Still, a victory was a victory.

Nightqueen Yanqing frowned; she also could not understand what had happened. Han Chong's attack had been very powerful, but it was not to the extent where Xia Ye could not avoid it. Why had he been killed so easily?

Starsibyl, Feng Shang, and the others similarly could not understand it.

Lu Yin was the same as the rest even though he had acutely sensed the depth of Han Chong's attack style. Painting was an extremely unconventional battle technique, and Han Chong could be said to be a true artist.

Soon after, another two students appeared on the arena plains, and yet another student leader had come out to battle. It was Astral-9's Liu Yin, and his opponent was Grandini Mavis.

When Liu Yin saw Grandini, he took off his earphones as a serious expression appeared on his face. No one dared to look down on the powerhouses from the Mavis family.

Grandini clenched her two fists and immediately attacked Liu Yin as soon as he appeared. Her demeanor seemed to be similar to Lulu's, but even more violent.

Liu Yin opened his mouth and let loose a tremendous roar that caused the void to immediately collapse, as quickly as a bowstring could be snapped. The sound waves also caused a shock wave to spread out in all directions. Even with the energy barrier, many students still fainted from its effects.

Grandini's fist crashed into the sound wave, but it was unable to continue any further. Her right leg stomped on the ground and caused an explosion to ring out. Her body moved forward by an inch. Then, another explosion caused her body to inch forward again. With this last bit of progress, the giant sound wave was split apart.

Lu Yin was shocked by what he had just seen. Nine Stacks? That's right, that was definitely Nine Stacks. He never thought that Grandini would also know the Nine Stacks technique. But, after thinking about it, it wasn't actually that much of a surprise. Even though the Nine Stacks technique could not be combined with other powerful battle techniques, it could be used to stack physical attacks. Since the Mavis family had an abnormally high physical strength, they were one of the best users for this battle technique.

Lu Yin could already envision Liu Yin's tragic end after Grandini's strength was channeled through Nine Stacks.

After eight explosions, Grandini was able to tear through the sound wave and punch Liu Yin's abdomen, causing him to spit out a mouthful of blood. In response, he grabbed Grandini's arm and roared out once again. This time, it was the sound of many birds crowing. The void fluctuated briefly before Grandini's eyes lost their focus as she was dragged into a land of fantasy.

Liu Yin was the Dao of Change's Realm Master, and he had obtained an ancient bloodline of the Fantasy Crow. His voice could create illusions.

But Grandini quickly broke free from the illusion. At this point, Liu Yin and Grandini had separated again, and Liu Yin's sound waves had converged into lines that then formed into a ball that suddenly dropped onto the ground. Many students unconsciously covered their ears while Grandini's eyes widened and she struck out with a fist. Nine booms directly rang out, and then a tenth, eleventh, until it finally stopped at the thirteenth explosion. She had not learned the Nine Stacks technique, but rather, the Thirteen Stacks technique.

Her terrifying strength was magnified even further with Thirteen Stacks, and it forcibly tore the sound wave apart. Even then, its offensive power had not lessened by much. The visible shock wave formed from the soundwaves was then blasted back towards Liu Yin.

The hit landed on Liu Yin again, and he spat out another large mouthful of blood. In front of him, Grandini had jumped up and raised her right leg, ready to slam it down.

Liu Yin's eyes quivered as he closed them. As everyone watched on attentively, the space around them trembled. With Liu Yin at its center, a black circle with a radius of a hundred meters appeared in the arena. This was the Soundless Field.

Supposedly, all creatures under the sky had an innate sound. Once their innate sound was removed, a Soundless Field would form, where humans could hear everything, even the flow of their own blood within their veins. This was the noise that formed the basis of Liu Yin's attack method.

Grandini turned pale as she covered her forehead and fell to the ground. Her entire body trembled as though she was trying to bear a torturously loud noise.

Liu Yin panted heavily, as it was very difficult for him to sustain the Soundless Field. Between the two of them, this had become a competition between who would be able to last the longest.

But Liu Yin had forgotten about something. If Lulu Mavis had comprehended battle force, then it went without saying that the stronger Grandini Mavis had as well.

As a three-lined battle force shrouded her entire body, Liu Yin's Soundless Field was completely shattered, and he became yet another fallen academy leader.

Many students released their pent up breaths. They were relieved that they would not have to bear another one of Liu Yin's roar attacks, which had been painful even for them as spectators.

Grandini also relaxed, as the torture of the Soundless Field was indeed unforgettable. She had resolved herself to use all her strength and immediately crush her opponent if she ever fought against another person who possessed an innate gift of sound. She did not wish to endure such torture again.

On the high peak overlooking the plains, there were now four vacant seats among the ten seats present. Although Liu Xiaoyun had won, a pyrrhic victory that had ended in mutual destruction was too weak for her to reappear among the rest of them.

In the previous Astral Combat Tournaments, only a few academy leaders would have been defeated at this point, but this tournament was exceptional. Not only were there monsters who had only recently joined the Astral Combat Academy, but there were also students like Xia Ye, Tu Bo, Grandini, and other hidden powerhouses. These hidden experts had caught Feng Shang and the others unawares.

For the next match, Starsibyl was pitted against Silver.

Lu Yin was speechless, and he even wondered if the academy mentors were purposefully targeting Astral-10. Xia Luo's opponent had been against Dao Bo, and now, Silver was matched up against Starsibyl. Neither one had even a glimmer of hope of winning. Even if Lu Yin was confident in Silver's power, he did not think that Silver could beat Starsibyl.

Although the Neohuman Alliance was powerful, Starsibyl's sect was equally monstrous. Moreover, Starsibyl herself was a very mysterious character; no one had managed to understand how she had defeated Liu Tang so far.

Unsurprisingly, Silver simply admitted defeat and exited the Lifeseek Realm.

The crowd felt that it was a pity, but they were not surprised at all as no one believed that he could beat Starsibyl.

Lu Yin frowned, as he had been staring at Silver the entire time. At the moment Silver left the Lifeseek Realm, his eyes had clearly held a grudging reluctance. It seemed that he had wanted to make some achievements in this Astral Combat Tournament, but unfortunately, he had only been able to reach this stage.

At this point, Astral-10's Xia Luo and Silver had both been eliminated. Only Lu Yin was left.

These results finally allowed the other academies' students to relax. This felt right, as this round would determine the eight strongest. If there was more than one person from Astral-10 in this group, even after some academy leaders had been eliminated, then it would be too embarrassing for them. After all, it was widely known that Astral-10 had been expelled from the Innerverse.

The Blaze Realm students such as Jared had even uglier expressions; Astral-10 had already achieved stellar results and definitely would not be driven out after this tournament. They would have to abandon their plan of replacing Astral-10.

For the next match, Feng Shang stepped out to face Sha.

Many wore solemn gazes when they saw this match. Sha had defeated Xue Liuyun and was a powerhouse that had reached this point by stepping on an academy leader's corpse. Feng Shang should have been facing a lot of pressure when the matchup was announced.

But at this moment, Feng Shang was smiling happily, abnormally happily?, as he directly appeared on the arena plains. Many people were stumped when they saw his expression.

After the fourth round, the academy leaders had started participating in the battles. The first battle featuring one had been a resounding victory for Feng Shang where he had crushed Arikar with an overwhelming power that made people realize what it meant to be a student leader—a Realm Master. But progressively, the pressure that each academy leader faced had mounted, and that was especially true now that there were four vacant seats atop the high peak. The prestige of the academy leaders had fallen greatly, and Feng Shang had been aching to face off against the students who had defeated other academy leaders. He had finally received his wish.

“Senior Dao Bo, what do you make of this match?” Lu Yin asked curiously.

Dao Bo unhesitatingly replied, “Feng Shang is sure to win.”

Lu Yin was astonished. “Why?”

“Feng Shang is not Xue Liuyun, who specializes in researching his innate gifts and only focuses on upgrading his own. Instead, Feng Shang loves to duel with all sorts of people, and he has quite the reputation in the teleportation battles. He definitely has the most battle experience out of all of us. He already came up with a way to deal with Sha at his first appearance, not to mention now, after seeing so many of his battles.”

“Is Senior Feng Shang famous in the teleportation battles?”

Dao Bo nodded. “He is Big Windy Bro.”

Lu Yin was shocked and numbly looked at the ground. So this bastard was actually Big Windy Bro. Lu Yin would never forget his experience when he first entered the teleportation battles. He had been wiped out instantly before he had even been able to stabilize himself. The person who had killed him was Big Windy Bro. He had met him again during a streak of consecutive victories, which had been promptly ended by Big Windy Bro.

Lu Yin had always thought that Big Windy Bro was an Explorer, and even in his dreams, he would have never thought that he would be Feng Shang. This fellow had actually instantly killed him twice in the teleportation battles.

Out on the plains, the two stood there for a brief moment before Feng Shang acted without hesitation. The sky and earth suddenly turned green as a violent wind suppressed the entire plains from above.

Sha's eyes quivered as the sturdy blue ice beneath him extended out. This was very similar to his previous battle with Xue Liuyun, where the two had clashed through their domains. However, Feng Shang was quicker by one step. He had altered the atmosphere with his own domain and caused the entire plains to become a windy territory.

Even the star energy in the plains had changed color and become green, inhibiting the hard, blue ice. Sha's domain was completely suppressed from the start. Although the air was still freezing cold, his domain could no longer spread out across the ground as it pleased.

Feng Shang raised his hand, causing a green gale that revolved like a sharp, spinning blade to appear over his palm. It was spinning so quickly that it constantly sliced the void open, causing black spatial cracks to extend outwards. Shivers ran down many people's spines. Even with their distance from the two battling students and the barrier separating them, they could feel the deadly power that Feng Shang held within his palm right now.

Feng Shang then casually struck out at Sha, who had a gloomy expression from being suppressed from the very start. When Sha saw the strike descending upon him, he immediately dodged. At the spot where he had been standing, a long furrow was carved out, its depth unknown. The spatial cracks came together to form a crescent moon shape that tore into the distance, as if it was connecting heaven and earth. At this same time, Feng Shang appeared at Sha's side and raised his hand, roughly slapping him.

Sha turned around to defend against the palm as the hard blue ice completely encapsulated him.

Boom!

Sha was smashed into the ground, and the sturdy ice around him cracked before being pulverized by the two clashing domains.

Everyone was surprised by the battle, as it Sha had been thoroughly suppressed from start to end. Feng Shang had not given Sha any respite and had directly attacked him until his death. This battle had been completely one-sided not due to a difference in power, but rather to the difference in battle experience and ability to control the pace of combat. Feng Shang had been much stronger than Sha in all these aspects.

Lu Yin was stunned, as Feng Shang's final palm had not been simple; it had even contained a miniscule wind blade's edge. It was this blade that had shattered the sturdy ice around Sha's body. Otherwise, Sha would not have been defeated that easily. Had Feng Shang calculated all this from the very start? This person's battle experience was too monstrous.

This was a high-quality match, but not many spectators could appreciate its full beauty. To the majority of the crowd, Sha simply had not lived up to his reputation. Some even thought that Sha had thrown the match; after all, he had defeated Astral-4's Xue Liuyun.

Feng Shang silently returned to the high peak and arrogantly glanced down below.

"Big Windy Bro?" Lu Yin shouted.

Feng Shang looked at Lu Yin. "Are you talking to me?"

Lu Yin nodded. "I never thought that you would be Big Windy Bro."

Feng Shang's eyes brightened. "So you've fought against me in the teleportation battles before? I don't recall."

Lu Yin smiled, but spoke no further. He felt a burning desire to fight Feng Shang and avenge himself for those two instant kills during the teleportation battles.

Chapter 220: Lu Yin And Liu Shaoqiu

Nightqueen Yanqing stood up for the seventh match. It was her turn, and her opponent was Charon.

When the audience saw Nightqueen Yanqing and Charon appear on the plains, many of them were not paying attention to the two about to fight, but were instead focused on the final two: Lu Yin and Liu Shaoqiu. Theirs would be the final match of the top sixteen.

Feng Shang looked at Lu Yin sympathetically. "Brother, your seat hasn't even been warmed up yet."

Lu Yin smiled. "Don't you have any confidence in me?"

Dao Bo sighed inwardly. Against Liu Shaoqiu, aside from the unfathomable Starsibyl and Han Chong, who else could they put their confidence in? Until now, Liu Shaoqiu hadn't even used the Second Sword of the Thirteen Swords. He had relied solely on the First Sword to reach the round of the top sixteen, and he had even defeated Kuang Wang with that sword. His power was just too terrifying.

Liu Xiaoyun stood quietly outside the plains while staring at Lu Yin atop the high peak. They all believed that this would be Lu Yin's limit and that he would go no further. No one understood the terror of the Thirteen Swords better than Liu Xiaoyun herself. Of the academy leaders, perhaps only Starsibyl, Han Chong, and Nightqueen Yanqing could possibly force Liu Shaoqiu to use the Second Sword. Well, Dao Bo and Feng Shang also stood a chance of doing so, but it was definitely impossible for the rest. Also, the Second Sword was not Liu Shaoqiu's limit. Liu Xiaoyun knew something that others did not; Liu Shaoqiu had actually learned the Third Sword a year ago! He was the one with the highest chances of ultimately emerging victorious and winning the entire Astral Combat Tournament. Even Starsibyl may not be able to directly contest the Third Sword. This was the tyranny of the Thirteen Swords.

The Liu family of the Sword Sect was a clan with a primeval surname that had held their own against the universe. Their family had relied on the Thirteen Swords to tower over numerous other organizations in the universe for countless years. Also, because of their Thirteen Swords technique, countless swordmasters had sought out and joined the Liu family, which was widely seen as a holy mecca for sword users. This was the prestige of the Thirteen Swords technique.

Off in the distance, Xia Luo and the others also felt that Lu Yin's matchup was a pity. Lu Yin definitely had the strength to reach the top four, but unfortunately, he had run into Liu Shaoqiu at this stage.

Many thought that the top eight was already decided: Dao Bo, Liu Xiaoyun, Han Chong, Grandini Mavis, Starsibyl, Feng Shang, Nightqueen Yanqing, and Liu Shaoqiu.

Within the Innerverse, at the Sword Sect, where sword qi pervaded the air, there were some people watching a screen. "Go and report to our superiors. The strongest eight in the Astral Combat Tournament has been decided. There's the Erudite Flowzone, the Mavis family, the Lockbreaker Society, the Nightking clan, Starsibyl, and two from my Sword Sect."

In a dusky land, beneath the large “Yōu” flag, the small girl raised her head, pointed to Lu Yin who was sitting on the high peak on the screen, and then naively asked, “Grandma Du, is he going to be Liu Shaoqiu’s opponent?”

Grandma Du smiled. “Yes, little princess, but you don’t need to pay much attention to this sort of ordinary person. He’s fated to be Young Master Qiu’s stepping stone. The others are the young master’s true opponents.”

The girl blinked in confusion. “Liu Shaoqiu will definitely beat him? What if he loses?”

Grandma Du as well as those kneeling in front of them all smiled. Their little princess was just too innocent. Grandma Du continued smiling as she explained, “Little princess, you’re being too kind. To ordinary mortals, that place is already the top. Not only are they inferior to Young Master Qiu in terms of position, but they are also inferior in terms of innate gifts as well. Those mortals can’t even begin to imagine how powerful the innate gifts that Young Master Qiu and yourself, who are destined to rule over all others, possess.”

“Oh,” the little girl answered simply. She then stared curiously at Lu Yin on the screen. Although she hoped that this person would win his match, it was impossible. It was such a shame; if someone defeated Liu Shaoqiu, then it would be a good thing for her as she would no longer have to marry into the Sword Sect.

But regardless of what the rest of the universe was discussing in terms of the final battle, the current battle taking place on the arena plains was between Nightqueen Yanqing and Charon.

This battle was very disadvantageous for Charon. The Nightking clan’s battle techniques used not only star energy, but also another, immeasurable power that seemed to tear through the soul itself. Even a genius Lockbreaker like Charon could not comprehend this energy, and he was injured by Nightqueen Yanqing just under a minute after their battle began.

Nightqueen Yanqing had cold eyes, and there was a trace of grey within her long, black and white hair. That grey streak represented her status of Nightking within the Daynight clan. There was also a faint purple color within the irises of her eyes, giving her a seductive yet still noble look. The outfit that she had on exposed her pair of snow-white thighs, and her skin was so white and unblemished that one could almost see the scarlet blood pumping through beneath it. Her entire body seemed to exude a lofty, commanding aura, as if she were a queen.

Everyone knew of the Nightking clan’s power; it was even above the Daynight clan’s, which was already one of the top clans in the universe. However, many people had no concept of exactly how powerful the Nightkings were, including Charon. This was because the strength that Nightqueen Yanqing had revealed so far seemed to be very average yet also unstoppable.

Atop the high peak, Dao Bo watched on begrudgingly. Although the rankings of the ten academies had changed throughout the academy’s history, the top three had always been monopolized by the same branches. This was because they controlled the three top realms of the trial zones.

Astral-1’s Starsibyl was unfathomable, and Astral-2’s Han Chong was her equal. Even though Astral-3’s Nightqueen Yanqing was not as mysterious as the other two, the strength that she displayed was completely overwhelming. Charon did not even qualify to make her display her true strength. The

Nightqueen Yanqing that everyone saw during this battle was not even using a third of her whole strength.

On the plains, Nightqueen Yanqing looked at Charon coldly as she said, "Your use of your innate gift isn't bad, but it's wasted on just improving your power level. Join my Nightking clan, and I can request the ancestors to guide you in lockbreaking. You should know the prestige of my Nightking clan's lockbreaking ability."

Charon had a fervent gaze when he heard her words, as there was no clan more qualified than the Nightking clan when it came to lockbreaking. Since ancient times, the Nightking clan had never stopped researching the process of lockbreaking, and there were multiple ancestors of the Daynight clan within the Lockbreaker Society.

"Lockbreaking is indeed my dream, but unfortunately, I don't like to be ordered around by others." Charon's eyes suddenly changed as a deep battle intent surged forth and he looked back at Nightqueen Yanqing with equally cold eyes. The current Nightqueen Yanqing's aura was very similar to "that woman's," and his deepest desire was to break free of the influence that "she" held over him and completely walk away. The thought of it made his eyes quiver with emotion, and a fluctuation swept out from his body; Charon was about to unleash his full strength.

Nightqueen Yanqing frowned. "What a waste of time." Her purple eyes flashed, and then she turned around. Charon's body stiffened on the spot before his body gradually turned grey. He had been petrified.

Many were shocked, as they thought that Charon was just about to explode with power. But then, he had been instantly killed. What just happened?

Atop the high peak, Dao Bo and Feng Shang had solemn expressions, and even Starsibyl and Han Chong frowned. This was Nightqueen Yanqing's innate gift. The question that they were all pondering was how they could avoid it.

Lu Yin was also horrified. He understood Charon's power, who had been able to easily dissolve Yue Xianzi's inherited battle technique. Compared to the other Area Master-level combatants, he had surpassed both Big Pao and Little Pao and was an absolute powerhouse; however, despite all of Charon's accomplishments, he had been taken out in an instant. Was this Nightqueen Yanqing's true power? It didn't even seem like she used much if any of her strength.

This was clearly an innate gift, as any battle technique that used star energy would not be able to shake Charon, who could easily dissolve such attacks with his domain. However, an innate gift was different. Strength was strength, and weakness was weakness. The results meant that there was simply a crushing disparity between the two.

At this point, as everyone looked at Nightqueen Yanqing's arrogant figure, it felt as if she had finally bared her fangs.

In the Astral Combat Tournament, Tiankong Daynight, Hui Daynight, and Chilian Daynight had all been defeated already. Nightqueen Yanqing's lightning-like victory was not necessarily to redeem the prestige of the Daynight clan, as her goal was to be the ultimate champion of the tournament.

Outside the plains, Wu Da was continuously recording all the battles as well as the conversations and discussions all around him. This would become the base material for the upcoming edition of his tabloid, and it would help him compare the different matches and highlight the most captivating moments of the tournament.

“The list of the strongest eight is already determined. The last match will go to Liu Shaoqiu without a question. Haven’t you heard? He’s the most talented monster of the Sword Sect and a candidate to join the Ten Arbiters.”

“One of the Ten Arbiters is also from the Sword Sect and that person even inherited the same Thirteen Swords as Liu Shaoqiu. Since they share the same technique, Liu Shaoqiu is definitely suitable to be in the next Ten Arbiters.”

“Kuang Wang could not even force Liu Shaoqiu to reveal the Second Sword. Lu Yin may be strong, and his four-lined battle force may allow him to match up to Kuang Wang, but he can forget about forcing out the Second Sword. Only the leaders of the first three academies—Starsibyl, Han Chong, and Nightqueen Yanqing—have any hope of challenging him.”

...

Wu Da fervently gazed at the plains. Come on, it’s the final match of the round! Brother Lu, you must persevere even if you are defeated! If Liu Shaoqiu’s Second Sword could be forced out, then Wu Da’s newspaper would definitely sell like hotcakes. Best of luck to you, brother!

In the city in the sky, San Dios, someone walked behind Wendy Yushan. It was Member Puyu.

“Councilor Wendy, I’ve specially invited someone to bring some good astral beast meat from the Beast Tamers Flowzone. Shall we have a drink together?” Puyu gracefully asked with a smile.

Wendy calmly looked at the screen as she replied, “There’s still one battle left.”

Puyu could not control his laughter. “The result of this match has already been decided. Although, it has to be said that your Great Yu Empire has indeed produced many geniuses. For this King Zishan to reach this stage already is no mean feat. Unfortunately, compared to the other frontrunners of this tournament, neither divine providence nor hard work is enough to make up for the disparity between them.”

Wendy Yushan frowned. While she was allowed to look down on Lu Yin, others could not. After all, she was supposed to be Lu Yin’s fiancée, and even if that news was only limited to the Great Yu Empire, she still held some respect towards Lu Yin due to the fact that he had walked to his current point. If not for her destiny that had allowed her to join Myriad Swords Peak, then she would not have done any better than Lu Yin from just training in the Outerverse. She approved of this King Zishan and disliked others disparaging him.

However, Puyu was also right. Liu Shaoqiu was a famed genius whom even she needed to look up to. She was just a little older than Liu Shaoqiu, and once he broke through to become an Explorer, they would be on equal footing. The Thirteen Swords technique even enabled Liu Shaoqiu to be a

Realmbreaker, and his title as a Ten Arbiters candidate was no joke. Lu Yin had done well so far, but he stood no chance against Liu Shaoqiu.

Wendy Yushan suddenly thought of the words that her father, Undying Yushan, had once spoken to her. Perhaps her father was right, and she should meet with Lu Yin at least once.

Under the gazes of countless viewers and spectators, Lu Yin's figure appeared on the arena plains. At the same time, Liu Shaoqiu's figure appeared opposite him. The two stood a hundred meters apart from each other, serenely looking at each other.

At this point, perhaps only those from Earth were still sincerely rooting for Lu Yin. This was only because they had not heard of Liu Shaoqiu before and had no idea what the Sword Sect's Thirteen Swords signified. They only knew that Lu Yin represented Earth and that their planet had been named as his place of origin.

The two competitors did not speak at all, which the audience took as Liu Shaoqiu disregarding Lu Yin. Only Lu Yin knew that, from the first time they saw each other, Liu Shaoqiu had always been very focused on him. This focus was only now made obvious when Liu Shaoqiu met Lu Yin on the battlefield; he immediately used the First Sword of the Thirteen Swords.

Chilian Daynight and Kuang Wang had both died to the First Sword of the Thirteen Swords. The difference between those two was that Liu Shaoqiu had completely ignored Chilian Daynight while he had faced Kuang Wang head on. His attitude of using the First Sword immediately showed that he respected Lu Yin as his opponent.

Liu Shaoqiu's star energy transformed into an iron sword that slanted downwards, mirroring the movement that had killed Chilian Daynight.

Many hearts were pounding as they stared at Lu Yin together. Had he already died?